

THE LIFE,
AND
EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES,

OF
JAMES MOLESWORTH HOBART,
ALIAS HENRY GRIFFIN,
ALIAS LORD MASSEY, THE NEWMARKET
DUKE OF ORMOND, &c.

Involving a Number of well-known Characters:

TOGETHER WITH
A SHORT SKETCH OF THE EARLY PART
OF

The Life of Doctor Torquid.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

BY N. DRALLOCH.

Ut cunctæ defecere Mores,

Dedecorant bene nata Culpe.

HOR. OD.

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MDCXCIV.





THE LIFE,

AND

EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES,

OF

James Molesworth Hobart.

CHAP. XI.

*Hobart sails for England, and is engaged in some
amorous adventures.*

WHEN Hobart was sufficiently recovered to go into company, he became an object of public curiosity; the ladies particularly wished to see this extraordinary man, whose tumultuous passion had so nearly cost him his life: and many of them, on perceiving by his countenance, the violent shock his constitution had sustained, involuntarily heaved a sigh of pity, and admitted that his punishment had been very severe.

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Forgetting that the source from which he had drawn so considerable a supply, no longer existed, as soon as his health was re-established, he engaged in new intrigues, which were attended with a considerable expence; this presently bringing him into embarrassment, he was driven to the desperate expedient of making free with a small sum of money belonging to the regiment, with which he had been entrusted. This money he being unable to replace, an enquiry into his conduct was about to be instituted; but this having reached the ears of a noble lord, who greatly respected his father, means were used to shield him from disgrace; after which he was advised to dispose of his commission.

The prospect of affairs in America now wore so gloomy an aspect, that Mr. Hobart began to think his possessions in Virginia irretrievably lost. This affected
him

him the more, on account of his eldest son, who was totally unprovided for, and whose gay disposition, he feared, could never brook an inferior department in life.

He communicated the cause of his trouble to Lord Cornwallis, by whom he was greatly respected, when his lordship readily relieved him from his anxiety, by assuring him, he would take the young gentleman under his own protection; and that, should it be found necessary for him to go to England, he would be sure, as a loyalist, to find ample compensation in the justice of the British government.

Hobart staid in America for some time after this, but the issue of the contest, at last, appearing no longer equivocal, he was furnished with letters of credence to a very respectable family in

A 4 London,

London, and took his passage for England, about the latter end of the year 1781.

On board the same vessel was a Mr. Jefferson, formerly of Bristol, who had emigrated to America with his wife and son, then an infant, about twenty years before. During this period, he had realized a considerable landed property, part of which he had disposed of to good advantage after the death of his wife, with an intent to return to England before the troubles became so serious; but had lost the remainder in consequence of his attachment to the royal cause.

This gentleman was now coming to England, to make his claim as a loyalist, with his son, two daughters born in America, and an American lady whom his son had lately married. One of Mr. Jefferson's daughters, though no more than nineteen years old, was a widow, having

having been married to a Mr. White about two months, when he was killed in a slight skirmish with the enemy.

Our adventurer, a few days before they sailed, introduced himself into the particular acquaintance of this company; who, as soon as they were informed of the respectability of his family, thought themselves highly honoured by his attention. The old gentleman was almost superannuated, and his son was quite a boorish clown; who delighted in nothing but drinking grog, and seemed to pride himself much in uttering vulgar and obscene expressions, in the presence of his wife and sisters. His wife was a pleasing young woman, and seemed much hurt at his brutish conduct, especially in the presence of a genteel stranger.

The widow White and her sister were two lovely figures, but had been brought up at their father's house so re-

A 5 note

mote from the intercourse of society, that they were total strangers to every species of polite refinement, and could not conceal their joy at the particular attention paid them by the young gentleman.

Hobart, during the short time they had been waiting for a wind, proposed to Mr. Jefferson and his son, to take a small cabin to themselves, and permit him the honour of accompanying them during the voyage; to this they readily agreed, and were happy he had condescended to favour them with his company.

They had sailed but a few hours, before the ladies felt the effects usually attending a sea voyage; during which, having been nowise affected himself, Hobart was very officious in comforting the fair sufferers, holding them alternately all disordered in his arms, while their tender frames were agitated by the nauseous effects

effects of the marine effluvia; and young Jefferson lay stretched out, half annihilated with sickness, and the quantity of rum he had taken as a palliative.

The ladies, after a few days, gradually recovered, but still, upon the smallest symptom of complaint, Hobart flew to their assistance; and some times when young Jefferson was on deck exhaling the fumes of the rum, he was not very cautious in the manner of disposing his hands, whilst rendering his fair messmates this friendly aid; but small errors of this kind, under such circumstances, could not be taken offence at.

Mrs. Jefferson, and the widow White, after they were perfectly recovered, were so far from being displeased with the kind attention of our adventurer, that he had reason to believe they frequently affected a slight indisposition,

sition, to invite the friendly efforts of his soothing consolation. And wishing never to be sparing of his favours to the fairer part of the creation, Hobart found means at last to afford them this, notwithstanding their confined situation, in the most complete, ample, and effectual manner. But so incautiously had he conducted himself towards Miss Jefferson, the youngest sister, that she was considerably alarmed, and during the remainder of the voyage, kept him strictly at a distance.

Although a moderate man might have thought himself abundantly blessed by the smiles of two amiable females during this short trip, yet Hobart was distracted at the resistance of the youngest sister; and when, on their arrival at Portsmouth, this family took leave of him, to proceed on their journey to Bristol, he perceived that this damsel,

all

all simple as she was, had made a considerable impression on his heart.

Hobart, on his arrival in London, went to reside with a respectable family in the neighbourhood of Hanover Square. He was now introduced into a very genteel circle of acquaintance, and for a considerable time conducted himself with tolerable decorum.

When he had been in England about ten months, he received information of the death of his father at New York, and a short time after made his claim on Government, as an American loyalist, under the patronage of Lord Cornwallis.

It is not to be wondered at, that a young gentleman of such engaging manners, countenanced by a nobleman so highly respected, and entitled to so considerable a property, should be particularly

cularly noticed by people of fortune, especially amongst the ladies, with whom, under such circumstances, his ease, elegance and fascinating assurance, were sure to lose no part of their influence.

Amongst the number to whom his visits were far from being disagreeable, was a lady of high rank, whose amorous exploits had made some noise in the kingdom. This lady took great pains to convince him that her heart was by no means insensible; but Hobart possessed a taste so truly vulgar, that he was more captivated with the smiles of a beautiful plebeian, than even with the favours of nobility itself; and her ladyship discovered, with indignation, that he preferred the ignoble attractions in the blooming person of a tradesman's daughter, to all the brilliant charms of her ladyship's splendor.

This

This preference to personal beauty was attended with some difficulty. The damsel, who had rivaled her ladyship in our adventurer's affection, was the daughter of a worthy Hibernian, by profession a master taylor, who had considered himself greatly honoured by the young gentleman's visits. But, after some time, observing in his daughter certain symptoms of approaching maternity, he swore, in a violent passion, that it never could have happened without the assistance of an accomplice; and though his wife endeavoured by every means in her power to pacify him, he threatened instantly to turn his daughter into the street, if she did not give up the name of her associate: nor could he be persuaded from persisting in his brutal demand, till he was told that Hobart had been concerned in this clandestine business.

Foaming

Foaming with rage, he immediately waited on the young gentleman at his own apartment, resolving to enforce reparation by marriage, or to avenge himself on the spot.

Hobart, who had been a very good customer to him for various articles of dress, attempted to pacify him, and wished to excuse himself by an apology, saying, he was extremely sorry the misfortune had happened, and hoped it would not operate to the injury of the lady's reputation. "Reputation!" (said Paddy) to the devil I pitch both your "reputations, if you call it a misfortune; "and pray what do you think of matrimony?" Hobart assured him, that at a proper period of life, it was a state for which he entertained the highest respect, but that, at present, he was so unfortunately circumstanced, as not to be able to embrace the felicity of such an engagement.

ment. "By Je—us! the felicity is all
 "that you want, (said the enraged
 Irishman) but I'll make you acquainted
 "with adversity;" so saying, he took
 from under his coat a large square oak
 yard, with which, whilst he manifested
 the superiority of his prowess, he con-
 vinced the young gentleman how sensi-
 bly he felt the indignity offered his
 family.

This disastrous circumstance had
 like to have ended tragically, for the
 young lady, having heard of the brutal
 indignity offered her lover, fell into a
 fit, and the paroxysms so rapidly suc-
 ceeded each other, that her life was
 thought to be in imminent danger.
 The tender mother, seeing her child re-
 duced to such an extremity, in the seve-
 rity of her anguish, charged her husband
 with having, by his brutal ferocity mur-
 dered his only child. This so severely
 affected

affected poor Patrick, who, though subject to passion, possessed a sensible heart, that he threatened to destroy himself. Knowing the violence of his temper, and seeing him so greatly agitated, his wife seriously feared he might make an attempt on his life; in order therefore to appease the severity of his distress, and also to comfort her disconsolate daughter, she told him, that he had it yet in his power, if he possessed any humanity, to save the life of her child. At this, he eagerly enquired what could possibly be done: "go, you unfeeling brute, (said she) go instantly to the young gentleman, tell him you are mad, beg his pardon, and intreat him to come and save your child's life."

Poor Pat, who was almost distracted with grief, felt himself now greatly relieved, and instantly posted away in search of Hobart. The young gentleman happened

happened to be out, but he waited with much impatience till his return, and then, in the most supplicating manner, entreated him to forgive an offence which was solely the effect of passion, and for which he was extremely sorry. hoping he would consider the sufferings of a wretched father and mother, for the sake of an only child, the preservation of whose life depended entirely on his generosity. Hobart, for some time, appeared inexorable, but at last, suffering himself to be prevailed on, he went to visit the fair sufferer, to the great joy of her penitent father.

The benign efficacy of the young gentleman's presence proved so salutary, that the paroxysms ceased, the gloomy sadness which, during his absence, had overwhelmed her charming countenance, instantly disappeared, and was succeeded by an engaging sweetness, which sufficiently manifested the pleasing consolation

tion the presence of her lover afforded her. Nor were her parents deficient in point of gratitude, on this occasion; for they entertained our adventurer, whose visits became very frequent, with such cordial respect, as amply demonstrated how truly sensible they were of the services he had rendered them. In a short time, indeed, this was no longer problematical, for the appearance of a little grand-son announced that his kind efforts had not proved ineffectual.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

Hobart visits France, returns to England, and begins his depredations.

THE particulars of this circumstance were entirely unknown to his friends, but being aware that he had formed some imprudent connexions, it was thought expedient that he should be sent to reside some time on the continent for improvement. Accordingly, having been furnished with letters of credit and recommendation by his noble patron, he set out for Paris in the beginning of the year 1784.

Countenanced by a nobleman so highly respected, immediately on his arrival, he was introduced to the acquaintance of people of the first rank. Amongst the most intimate of his early friends were Messrs. Lameth, by whom he was recommended to the then Marquises

Marquisses Chatellaux and Montmorency, who entertained him in the most friendly and familiar manner.

He now fluttered away in all the elegance, gaiety, and bustle of high life; was presented to the Marquis de la Fayette, received successive invitations, and participated in daily public or private entertainments.

Amongst the number he first visited, was the celebrated Madame Delarive. This lady was, at that time, under the protection of the Marquis de Valville. Hobart could not behold her charms with impunity; and this seems to have been the remote cause of his ruin.

Madame Delarive soon perceived Hobart's sentiments, and an amorous correspondence commenced between them, which, for some time, was concealed

cealed from the Marquis. At last, however, de Valville became suspicious, and soon found means to convince himself of the infidelity of his mistress, and her partiality to Hobart.

Fired with resentment, on being possessed of undeniable proofs, the Marquis hurried away to the Bouvellards, where he knew Hobart was to dine with a party of gentlemen.

On entering the room, de Valville offered Hobart some personal insult, and a duel with pistols was the consequence, in which the Marquis received a ball in the left shoulder; this, however, did not prevent his discharging his pistol at Hobart, but without effect.

De Valville's wound being supposed dangerous, Hobart withdrew, and posted instantly to his mistress, whom he acquainted

quainted with what had happened; and the very next morning, without taking leave of any one, or paying his debts, he, accompanied by the lady, who, on her part, conceived that her fidelity entitled her to make free with all the valuables the Marquis had entrusted her with, set off post for England.

On his arrival in London, he made his first essay by a draft on his noble patron, and succeeded in obtaining from him a considerable sum, before it was even suspected that he had quitted Paris.

Not long after this, however, his friends were fully apprised of his transactions on the continent, his dishonourable departure, and the character of the lady who had accompanied him to England. Still another effort was made to reclaim him, but his attachment to that celebrated courtesan baffled all their endeavours,

vours, and they were constrained to leave him to the consequence of his own imprudences.

Taking up his residence in the neighbourhood of Golden Square, he figured away with his dulcinea in an elevated hemisphere, till his finances portended approaching embarrassment, when the lady began to feel a returning affection for the continent.

Hobart, whose passion was now meliorated into a sort of friendly indifference, wishing not to oppose so laudable an inclination, accommodated her with a sufficient sum to defray the expences of her journey, and they parted with mutual professions of lasting affection.

Hitherto he had regularly corresponded with his mother, brother, and sisters, at Williamsburgh, for whose welfare

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fare

fare and happiness he had always manifested the most lively interest ; but now, as if one vice contained the principles of universal depravity, his honour, his gratitude, and every natural affection of consanguinity, seemed to have suffered one common dissolution.

After the departure of Madame Delarive, Hobart made an impression on the heart of Miss G——, a beautiful young lady of Warwickshire, who then resided in London. This attachment was extremely unfortunate to the lady ; for immediately after being seduced from her friends, and robbed of her innocence, Hobart was arrested for a considerable sum of money, and lodged in the King's Bench Prison. Such, however, was the force of this lady's affection, that she voluntarily immured herself with him ; but being recognized, a short time after, by a gentleman of Birmingham, who went

went to that prison to visit an acquaintance, she seemed to feel the weight of her misfortune, and wept abundantly.

It happened in this, as in similar cases, that the passion of love made but a feeble stand against adversity; so that, in a short time after, finding it most agreeable to their interest, and affection no longer interposing, they parted by mutual consent.

Deprived of the benign smiles of beauty to cheer his gloomy solitude, and being extremely reduced in point of pecuniary matters, he addressed a line to the lady of high rank, whose tender sighs, in prosperity, he had treated with indifference, couched in such terms, that it instantly procured him a visit from the lady herself.

Finding him now no longer insensible to her charms, she kindly dedicated a considerable part of her time to his solace, frequently visiting him in his retirement, and, by her munificence, enabled him to live in very high style.

When he had been in confinement about four months, he received his claim on government as an American loyalist, amounting to several thousand pounds, and presently procured his enlargement.

Being possessed of so considerable a sum of money, and finding his heart revolt at any further connexion with the lady who had visited him in prison, he went to Bath, in company with a military gentleman whom he had known in America.

The influence of his companion, added to his own address, soon procured him

him the acquaintance and respect of a number of very genteel people; in the circle of his visits, he frequently met Miss H——, a lady of much intelligence, and possessed of a considerable property in her own disposal.

Hobart's polite attention and genteel demeanour soon made a slight impression on the heart of this lady, which (though she was afterwards no stranger to his various exploits in the province of intrigue, and his boundless extravagance) increased in spite of all the efforts of her prudence.

What nature had denied this lady in point of personal accomplishment, was amply compensated by the excellence of her understanding and abundant good nature. She frequently rallied him upon his imprudence, and sometimes recommended reformation and solidity

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with

with such energy, as seemed to indicate that something more than his own happiness depended upon it. Hobart perceived this, and though his heart was not interested in the discovery, his vanity was greatly flattered, and he now began to make this lady his confidant.

This opened the way to a considerable degree of familiarity, which, though it did not awaken in his heart the smallest congenial symptom, digested the lady's sentiments towards him into a combination of love, generosity, and compassion; a unity of affections unknown to inferior minds.

Towards the close of the season, Hobart was smitten with the charms of a young damsel, whom an old debauchee had taken under his protection to comfort his debility. He had exchanged some tender glances with the lady, and had no doubt of detaching her from her present

present engagement. But prudently foreseeing that this was likely to be attended with a considerable expence, and might involve him in much difficulty, he wished rather to obtain her favour by private intercourse.

This was not easily effected, for the lady was so continually under the inspection of her *cher ami*, that it was some time before Hobart could establish such preliminaries, as would enable him to take any little advantage opportunity might offer. She, however, being not one of those cruel beauties who will never understand a lover 'till he has spent half a century in explanation, took the hint, and Hobart was soon blessed with an interview.

The old gentleman, finding it most conducive to his health, had accustomed himself to retire to rest very early; but

as he was not so cruel as to impose this practice on his blooming companion, she, disliking to be alone, generally sat reading with the servant in the kitchen, 'till eleven o'clock.

Hobart found means to inform himself of this circumstance, and the lady was not so cruel as to deny him the pleasure of paying her an occasional visit; in this the servant maid most readily concurred, for she having placed her affections on a young fellow in the neighbourhood, made her conditions with her mistress for his admission also. Thus, while the mistress and her paramour were amusing themselves with the soft tale of love in the kitchen, the maid and her spark entertained themselves with the same pleasing subject in the parlour above.

Hobart's mistress was made of materials too amorous to resist long the ardent

ardent impetuosity of her lover; nor is there any reason to doubt that the youth, in the apartment above, was less successful. Thus they passed their evenings, to their mutual satisfaction, 'till deranged by an unlucky accident.

One night, while they were indulging below in the utmost security, whether the *os frontis* suffered an unusual pain, or that it happened from any other cause, is uncertain, but the old gentleman awoke, and finding his bedfellow not present, very deliberately slipped on his night gown, and descended. He passed the parlour door, without being heard by the servant or her lover, and had nearly caught Hobart and his mistress in a very suspicious position: but the lady hearing the stairs trod by a foot more heavy than the servant's, instantly took the alarm, and had just time to hand Hobart into a vault made under the

street, for the purpose of receiving coals through an aperture in the pavement. This place was so full, that the gallant was obliged to lie down, in an awkward position, to enable the lady to shut the door.

Having resumed her seat, her beloved entered, and began to chide her for continually sitting up so late; she answered him in the most endearing terms possible, but he insisted on her going up stairs before him. The servant, on hearing her master's voice, had found means to liberate her lover, and had retired to her own apartment.

The old gentleman having sent his lovely comforter before him, took the candle in his hand to follow her; but feeling a sudden impulse from a urinate which he had taken in the evening, he placed the candle on the stairs, and ran to the coal vault to relieve himself.

Having

Having hastily opened the door, he began to discharge, and the stream un- luckily took it's direction exactly in Hobart's face. Here was he obliged to lie for fear of discovery, without daring to move, or to make the smallest effort to turn himself from it, 'till the old sinner had nearly poisoned him with the foul secretions of his rotten trunk; then ex- pectorating pretty freely, he finally sent a portion of morbid matter at Hobart's countenance, with such force, that it expanded over a great part of his visage.

Our adventurer remained in this situation near an hour, before the girl came to his relief; when she could not help smiling, that her master, though unconsciously, should have thus avenged himself of his rival. Hobart returned home in a very uncomfortable condition, when he had the mortification to discover, that the strength of the fluid, in

discharging the colour, had entirely spoilt him a very elegant suit of clothes.

The fancy of the servant-maid was so tickled by the singularity of the circumstance, that she imparted it to her lover, and thus it found it's way to the public.

C H A P. XIII.

Hobart forms a connexion with an infamous character, and is engaged in various species of depredation.

HOBART'S reputation began to suffer considerably in the circle of his acquaintance; for his success amongst the ladies had created him many enemies, and his extravagancies furnished them with sufficient means to render him contemptible. The honest brotherhood of the gaming tables considerably facilitated his fall; for they had found means to disencumber him of the greatest part of his property.

To all this Miss H—— was no stranger; yet, even now, she hinted, that by a reformation there was a possibility of

of effecting a respectable establishment. This, it seems, he declined, from motives which little accord with his future conduct; for he afterwards declared, that he could not be guilty of so vile a piece of injustice, as to possess himself of the property of her towards whom his heart acknowledged no other affection but gratitude.

About this time, a quarrel with Sir Charles A—— gave rise to a paragraph in an Evening Paper, celebrated at that time for it's severity on particular characters, which rendered him so ridiculous, that he went to London for the purpose of inflicting corporeal punishment on the editor; but that gentleman had so lately received such unpleasing contradiction from the cudgel of a northern baronet, to a few strictures with which he had been pleased to entertain his

his readers, that he gave Hobart no opportunity of making a similar reply.

He had not been long in town before he was completely inaugurated into that honourable confraternity, known by the name of the Black Legs; to whom, for his genteel accomplishments, he was a valuable acquisition.

Amongst this respectable tribe was one Caddin, who had, for many years, practised as an attorney in Cheshire, but he possessed such a propensity for depredation, that, though his profession afforded him great opportunity, his genius could not be confined within the narrow limits of professional robbery; in order, therefore, to give ample scope to his faculties, he took up his residence principally in London.

This

This original in iniquity attracted Hobart's notice, and they soon formed a particular intimacy. By him he was informed of the inexhaustible resources within the reach of men of genius, in spite of the flimsy barriers of the law, and instructed in the art of gaming; but Hobart was nowise calculated for a sportsman, and was always a dupe to the knowing-ones.

He now set out, accompanied by Caddin, and some others of the worthy associates, to York races, where, for the first time, he found it convenient to use a travelling name; and while Caddin and his companions took care of the second order, he figured away, with two servants, as a man of fortune, amongst the first class.

Their joint industry having rendered the journey very productive,
Hobart

Hobart did not return to town with Cad-
din, but travelled in style to Scarborough,
and on his arrival assumed the character
of a person of high rank.

Having visited the theatre, he saw
Mrs. Jordan, and was so charmed with
the wanton tricks of the little Romp,
that he resolved to become a candidate
for her favour. To this end he attended
the house whenever she performed, and
had sufficient address to obtain admit-
tance behind the scenes, where he seve-
ral times enjoyed a long *tete-a-tete* with that
charming little actress, who, doubtless,
supposed she was honoured by the atten-
tion of a branch of some noble family.

After some time, as he himself has
affirmed, he had a fair prospect of being
blessed with the favours of Priscilla
Tomboy, but was unfortunately deprived
of that felicity, by a circumstance which
has

has been more fatal to the success of a variety of projects, than any other obstacle which opposes itself to the accomplishment of human purposes. This was no less than a want of cash; for the preliminaries had been extended to so unusual a length, that he was obliged to break off the negotiation abruptly, and to quit Scarborough, without calling on his creditors for their receipts. He reached Nottingham with difficulty, where his pecuniary embarrassment made it necessary for him to halt.

Perceiving his difficulty increase, without any apparent possibility of extricating himself, he wrote to Miss H—, of Bath, representing himself as under some temporary necessity, when she generously remitted him a bill for thirty pounds, kindly inviting him to Bath, saying she hoped his wild peregrinations were now at an end.

On

On his return to town, Caddin informed him that he had been extracting a few hundreds from the coffer of an old iron-fisted misanthrope of Cheshire, and that he was preparing the same means to loosen the purse-strings of another.

"What (said Caddin) gives me particular satisfaction in these undertakings is, that not only my own but the public interest is greatly benefited by them : the one from whose stock I have been taking a small supply, though possessed of considerable property, would not, at the trifling expence of half a crown, ransom the human race from perdition, except his own interest was involved in their redemption ; yet he is a bachelor, near sixty years of age, and execrates the few who are allied to him by consanguinity, because they may be supposed to have some expectations on his property.

"Now

" Now (continued he) to liberate a
 " few hundreds from the unliving
 " clutches of such an all-grasping lump
 " of iniquity, and send them into circu-
 " lation, is an object worthy of a gene-
 " rous mind; for in this a man does not
 " serve himself at the expence of the
 " public, but mutually blends his own
 " with the good of society at large. The
 " other, whose case I have under consi-
 " deration, stands charged with having
 " imprisoned, within an iron chest, every
 " guinea which has come within his
 " reach for many years, against the inte-
 " rest of all mankind," &c.

" A most abominable crime, (ex-
 claimed Hobart) " but by what means
 " can the prisoners be liberated, without
 " incurring the censure of the law for a
 " rescue?" " Nothing more easy, (re-
 plied Caddin) " for the law itself may
 " be made the agent. I only give pro-
 " per

" per instructions, and the executors of
" the law are obliged to obey my orders.
" The following was the method I pursued with my Cheshire friend.

" I procured a bond for three hundred pounds, and a warrant of attorney to confess judgment; these, without his knowledge, I caused to be executed, in the name of my Cheshire acquaintance, by a friend in London. The instruments were then put into my hands, as an attorney, and I entered up judgment according to law. A writ of execution was instantly issued to the sheriff of Cheshire. In vain did the defendant curse, stamp, rave, foam at the mouth, and swear that he knew not the plaintiff, and that it was a forgery; the sheriff was obliged to levy the execution before the return of the writ, and paid into my hands
" three

“ three hundred pounds, as the plaintiff's
 “ attorney.

“ It has since been proved to be a
 “ forgery, but there was not time for
 “ this discovery 'till after the return of
 “ the writ, nor has the sheriff power to
 “ stay it's execution. Some time after
 “ the business was done, I was applied
 “ to in search of the plaintiff, when I
 “ very gravely said, I knew nothing of
 “ the matter; that the plaintiff came to
 “ me as an attorney; I did his business,
 “ and had paid him the money, but
 “ neither knew where he lived, nor any
 “ thing of his connexions.”

The ingenuity of this forgery, and
 the almost impossibility of detection,
 induced Hobart to assist in several simi-
 lar frauds, by which they obtained con-
 siderable sums of money.

After

After this, finding it convenient to retire for some time, 'till the turbulence caused by these transactions had a little subsided, they went to Margate, where they pretended to be strangers to each other, the better to effect their schemes of depredation.

From Margate, after having obtained goods and cash on several pretended bills of exchange, they went to Southampton, where their stay was short, in consequence of being known by a gentleman who had seen them at Margate.

Hence followed a succession of depredations and extravagances at London, Buxton, Brighton, and many other principal places, a relation of which could afford no entertainment, as they were totally destitute of originality, and depended principally upon Hobart's genteel address and assurance.

The

The law; however, which Caddin had eluded so long, had nearly, at last, caught him in it's trammels; for having added to others, the name of a merchant on the back of a bill of exchange, in order to make it negotiable, he was soon near being taken, that he owed his escape to the officer's seizing, by mistake, a person who was in company with him at a coffee house in Fleet Street. He now thought it most prudent to quit the kingdom, and accordingly went to France.

Hobart remained in London for some time after Caddin's departure, and succeeded in various species of imposition; but was, at last, arrested for debt, and owed his liberation to the generosity of Miss H——, of Bath, who sent him a bill for that purpose.

As soon as he obtained his liberty, he went to Bath, where he made but a short stay; for having contracted some debts,

debts, and being furnished with a sum sufficient to discharge them by the lady before alluded to, he applied this to the exigencies of his journey, and immediately set off for London, intending to make the best of his way to Paris, without even taking leave of his benefactress.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

Hobart is engaged in some adventures in France, returns to England, visits Ireland, is taken, tried, convicted, and ordered for transportation.

ON his arrival at an inn in Canterbury, he ordered dinner, when the mistress of the house asked if he were going to Dover; on answering in the affirmative, he was told, that two ladies had just ordered a post-chaise for that place, and would be glad of the company of a gentleman person. He asked at what time they proposed to depart, on being told in about an hour, as their dinner was now ready, and they intended to be at Dover just in time to embark immediately on their arrival, he sent his compliments to the ladies, offering to accompany them

them, and begged permission to dine at their table.

This message was delivered with so favourable a report of the young gentleman's appearance, that he was presently introduced. On entering he discharged the little ceremonies of politesse with such ease, as sufficiently manifested his acquaintance with genteel life, and dinner was now put on the table.

One of the ladies was rather corpulent, and appeared to be between forty and fifty years of age, the other a little bewitching figure about eighteen, whose structure and features were wonderfully calculated to act as a provocative upon the senses. Before they had dined, Hobart discovered that the young lady spoke English very imperfectly, and having asked permission of the other,

who

who understood no other language, addressed her in French, which he presently learnt was her native tongue. Finding the little lady very volatile, and perceiving the other appeared nowise displeased at their freedom, he continued to converse with her in that language, occasionally explaining the subject of their conversation. After dinner, Hobart and the old lady took a glass of wine together, when they all entered the chaise, and departed for Dover.

In the course of their journey, he learnt from his little nymph, that her father had taken her to London about eight months before to learn the English tongue, and that she was now returning to Abbeville, where her friends resided. That the old lady had never yet been in France, and had now undertaken the journey at the request of her father, purely to superintend her conduct

duct on the road. Miss ——— delivered this as if she firmly believed that her attendance was entirely superfluous.

Hobart was now greatly enamoured of his little engaging companion, and took an opportunity, while the old lady was enjoying a doze, to inform her how completely her charms had enslaved him; at which, the tender glances of his little enchantress sufficiently manifested her satisfaction. She occasionally checked him however, lest he should be noticed by her attendant.

In about an hour after their arrival at Dover, they embarked for Calais, from whence, after about eight hours rest, they proceeded to Boulogne, where they arrived about the middle of the day, and the old lady finding herself rather fatigued, readily acceded to a proposition to proceed no further 'till next morning.

By this time, Hobart and his little heroine, perfectly understood each other, but so fearful was the wary matron that that her fair charge would be unable to refuse any favour the young gentleman might be inclined to solicit, that she submitted to the fatigue of a promenade for near three hours, rather than leave them together for a minute.

After supper, Hobart spoke so highly of the sherry he had several times drank in that house, that he prevailed on the old lady to take a glass with him, and she approving of the excellency of it's flavour, he resolved to supply her plentifully, hoping from it's somnific effect to be able to pass a part of the night with the young lady. The wine had circulated plentifully, but had not effected the desired purpose, and our adventurer fearing his own brain would be disordered; before she had taken

taken *quantum sufficit*, took an opportunity of improving every glass he filled for the old lady, with a little brandy, which presently began to operate.

Hobart now imparted his intention to the petite nymphe, and enforced his intreaties with such ardent impetuosity, that the little wanton seemed to lament the impossibility of her compliance, saying, she must occupy a part of the same bed with her governante.

The ladies presently retired, and Hobart ascended at the same time to reconnoitre the apartments above, and to notice the chamber which the ladies entered, fully persuaded, if he could get admittance, there was not the least fear of any interruption from the duenna.

As soon as they had reached the top of the stairs, he bid them a good night, but was much mortified at seeing them take a different direction to that which led to his apartment. He was told, however, by the chamber-maid who attended him, that there were two beds in the room occupied by the ladies, but she believed they intended to sleep together. He asked this damsel some other questions, and presently began to think, by the sly disposition of her features, that she suspected his intention. Somewhat elevated with the wine he had drank, and inflamed by the significant manner in which his little mistress had wished him a good night, he resolved, if possible, to secure the interest of this young woman, whose countenance evinced that she herself was not composed of sterile materials.

Accordingly,

Accordingly, taking her in his arms, he gave her a kiss, and asked if she could keep a secret; "Yes, (said she, smiling) "if I please." "Well, (continued he, slipping a guinea into her hand) will you "be silent, and when all is quiet, direct, "me to the bed-side of the young lady?" "That, perhaps, might be more than I "can promise, (replied she) but I'll "assist you as far as I can; and, after I "have paid the ladies a visit, will "return and inform you whether it be "practicable." He again embraced the sympathizing soubrette, and she departed.

Hobart lay impatiently near three hours, expecting every moment the return of his fair envoy, and had at last begun to curse her ingratitude, when he heard somebody softly open the door of his apartment, and presently found his compassionate emissary had not forgotten him.

Having approached his bed-side, she softly informed him, that the young lady was in a separate bed in the same room with her curatrice, telling him to follow her, and she would conduct him to the door, which was now on the jar, but that he must return again to his own room for a short time, as the old lady was then awake, and she was going to fetch her a glass of cold water.

Hobart followed her as desired, and having received instructions how, on entering, he should infallibly find the young lady's bed, he returned to his own apartment, and waited with the utmost impatience nearly half an hour. Being now unable any longer to restrain the ardency of his desires, he came softly forth, and without any interruption, reached the place of destination, where, in the soft embraces of his inamorata,
he

he silently assuaged the perturbation of his spirits.

After some hours had elapsed, and the power of reflection had again assumed it's office, he began to mistrust that he must have been deceived, for he thought his bedfellow somewhat more bulky than he had reason to expect. Resolving to be satisfied on a subject of so much importance, he softly endeavoured to enforce a conversation, and finally discovered that he was in the arms of the amorous fille de chambre herself. He now deliberately returned to his own room, somewhat mortified at his disappointment; but recollecting that this Cyprian dame had fulfilled her promise, in assisting him as far as she was able, he thought he had no great reason to complain.

The old French proverb, indeed, "*A quelque chose malheur est bon*," might be well applied in this instance, as the voluntary prostitution of the amorous soubrette, in all probability, preserved the heedless young lady from utter ruin; for Abbeville, the place of her nativity, being but two stages from Boulogne, and Hobart rendered a little temperate, perhaps, by his late adventure, perceiving that any further attempt on the young lady would be attended with great difficulty, thought proper, on their arrival at that place, politely to take his leave of them, and pursue his journey.

On his arrival at Paris, he found his friend Caddin exercising his talents amongst the French, with little success; he, however, more fortunate, had the happiness to attract the notice of a woman of rank, by whom he was enabled to live in high style.

He

He now kept his carriage, and assumed the title of a British nobleman; but as the ways and means by which this splendor was supported, depended on so uncertain a thing as the affection of a woman, it is no wonder that he was soon reduced again to the level of a plebeian.

He now joined his industry to that of his friend Caddin, who laboured under some difficulty, on account of his ignorance of the language, and they kept a faro bank, the profits of which afforded them ample support. But Caddin having, some time before, made free with the name of a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Versailles, by which he had obtained goodsto a considerable amount, being now recognized, was secured, and, as it is since said, suffered that punishment his crimes so justly merited.

Hobart

Hobart being heartily tired of the continent, returned to London, where he entered into a species of swindling of an inferior kind, and several times narrowly escaped the hands of justice. Fearing he should unluckily encounter some of the officers of Bow Street, who were now no strangers either to his person or fame, he took leave of London, determining to try his efforts in the country, and accordingly taking with him two associates, as servants, he set out first for Northampton.

He succeeded in various kinds of fraud, sometimes by obtaining cash and goods on pretended bills of exchange, at others, by getting possession of goods, and making a precipitate retreat. In this manner he committed depredations at York, Newcastle, Durham, Liverpool, Manchester, and many other places; but as they were attended with no circumstances

circumstances either original or amusing, a detail of them would be tedious in the extreme.

It was during this excursion that he adopted the whimsical idea of turning fortune-teller, and actually took apartments in the center of a very populous and genteel town, where, by means of his emigrations, he so well acquainted himself with the private histories of many ladies who wished to take a peep into futurity, that he found it an easy matter to give them entire satisfaction. In this capacity many genteel females visited him, but his fame spread with such rapidity, that, lest the magistrates should have the curiosity of putting his powers to the test, he thought proper suddenly to retire.

Conceiving his residence in England any longer, at this time, attended with some danger, he went to Dublin, accompanied

panied by two or three associates, where he exercised his talents for some time with impunity, but at last was detected in shop-lifting, committed to prison, tried, convicted in the name of Redman, and ordered for transportation.

CHAP.

Hobart miraculously escapes from prison.

AFTER his conviction, he conducted himself in gaol with such fascinating humility, that he excited the commiseration of all who came near him; and so prepossessed in his favour were those who had the conduct of the prison, that he enjoyed every indulgence the nature of his situation would allow; yet, while he thus appeared resigned to his fate, and grateful for the favours he received, he was privately meditating means of escape.

This would have been a task impossible to a mind less active, resolute, and cautious than Hobart's, for Dublin prison is not less secure, in appearance at least, than the gaol of Newgate in London.

Having

Having conceived his plan, he began to prepare for it's execution, in the following manner. His apartment being in the upper story, he perceived that by removing an iron bar, he could easily ascend the roof by means of a window-shutter, which was let down on the outside in the day-time.

He directed his first operations to effect this, but in such a manner, that when he was on the outside he could replace the bar, so as not to leave the smallest appearance of what had been done.

This would have been much easier performed, could he have disengaged himself from his fetters; but this, if practicable, would have been attended with much hazard.

Having

Having occasionally access to a room where there was some stout cordage, which had been used as clothes lines, with the assistance of this he hoped to effect his purpose.

His scheme being at length ripe for execution, he took a quantity of this cordage to his apartment, and having filled his pockets with some bread and rolls, he watched his opportunity, and ascended the roof unperceived.

Being on the top, he concealed himself in an angle between two roofs, and then tied handkerchiefs round his irons to prevent their clinking when he should have occasion to move. Here he could not be seen, as the prison is more lofty than any of the adjacent buildings. In this situation he lay secure, and heard the confusion which took place in consequence of his being missed. His

escape

escape appeared to every one the more astonishing, as there was not the smallest vestige by which it could be discovered how he had effected it.

Messengers were dispatched to every quarter, and a description of his person was sent to the sea-ports: in short, the most vigorous means were used for five days to discover him, but in vain. During all this time he remained on the roof, attending frequently to the conversation in the prison yard concerning him; and at last, heard it positively affirmed by the turnkeys, that he had been seen in England.

Being exposed continually to the weather in a very inclement season, and having nothing to sustain nature but the rolls he had in his pockets, he found himself extremely feeble, and ready to perish with thirst, but some rain falling

on

on the fourth night, a considerable current ran down the angle in which he lay, and afforded him infinite relief.

Two powerful reasons had induced him to submit so long to the rigour of his situation, rather than attempt to descend. First, the keeper and his agents having made one vigorous effort to retake him, he thought would be less vigilant afterwards. Secondly, the moon happened to shine each night during those hours he thought most favourable to his design.

On the fifth night, having tied his ropes together, and made one end fast at the top, catching the moment when every thing was silent below, he slipped gently down, but had the mortification to find he was very near a sentinel provided with a lanthorn, and that his rope would not reach the ground by several yards.

In

In this horrible situation he kept his hold 'till his strength was exhausted, and then fell. The noise of his fall caught the attention of the centinel, who turned round as if intending to approach the spot.

Hobart's feelings, at the instant, can better be conceived than described; for, though he had received no great injury from his fall, besides being fettered, he was so weak, from the coldness of the night, and want of sustenance, that he could scarcely move his limbs.

Some sudden noise in the street, however, so completely took possession of the centinel's organs of sensation, that Hobart, who was not within the reach of his vision, found means to creep off.

Being now a considerable distance from the house of the only friend, who, he hoped,

hoped, would afford him some assistance, he was in the utmost fear of being discovered from the effects of his irons; luckily seeing a sedan chair, and no person near it, he directly got in, and began in a very authoritative manner to exclaim

—“Halloo, fellows! where are you?” The chairmen arrived instantly, and asked his honour where he would wish to be carried, when Hobart, after reprimanding their inattention, directed them to his friend’s house.

While in the chair he was in the utmost perplexity to contrive how to get out without discovering his fetters to the chairmen. This, however, he found means to effect, for, on being set down, he ordered one of them to run up a passage to call his friend, and in the interim, the other to give him his lanthorn to read the direction of a letter, when, dropping the lanthorn, as if by accident,

dent, he put the candle out; then affecting the greatest concern, said, "Go, go my good fellow, and light it instantly." Thus, having engaged them both, he entered his friend's parlour before they discovered he had got out of the chair.

He now, with the utmost presence of mind, conjured his friend to suppress his fear and surprize, and to go quickly and discharge the chairmen. All this was done without the least suspicion or delay.

He remained under the protection of his friend 'till the following night, when, having disengaged himself from his fetters, he set off for Drogheda, taking up his lodgings on the road in small cottages, barns, or stables, and arrived there just in time to get on board a vessel about

about to sail for Park-Gate, where he landed the following day, without ever having been in the least suspected.

Having, with great precaution, destroyed the clothes in which he made his escape, he was now dressed in a plain suit procured by his friend in Dublin, had a shirt, a pair of stockings, and a few other articles tied up in a handkerchief, which he carried on the end of a stick thrown across his shoulder, so that when he reached Chester he had much the appearance of a decent travelling mechanic.

• On examining the state of his finances, he found he must be extremely frugal to support himself 'till he could reach a place where he might hope for some pecuniary aid ; finding, therefore, that travelling on foot was most agreeable both

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to his means and appearance, having rested one night, he set off early in the morning from Chester for Bath, where he expected to procure some assistance.

CHAP. XVI.

Contains an affecting tale.

HAVING walked about five miles on the Shrewsbury road, a young man came out of a narrow lane and took the same direction, keeping some little way before him. Hobart observed him frequently apply his handkerchief to his eyes, as though in tears, and presently, having mended his pace, overtook him, and perceived by his countenance, that he had been in much trouble.

They continued to walk together for some time, without speaking a word; at last, the youth being a little recovered, asked Hobart how far he was going that way. "I hope (replied Hobart) to reach Shrewsbury to-night, if possible; from whence I shall go forward on the

D 2

Bath

"Bath road, and perhaps continue my journey to London, if I meet with no employment on the way.

"I also want to dispose of myself somewhere, (said the youth) for, within this half hour, distress has driven me from my native home, and I now must depend for subsistence on whatever fortune may throw in my way. What aggravates my trouble, (continued this unhappy youth) "I was bred to no trade;—to Bristol is my route, I have a sister there." On uttering these words, he burst into tears, and, for the present, could proceed no further.

Hobart endeavoured to comfort him, saying, that he himself had experienced scarcely anything else through life but a succession of troubles, and that a de-

tail

tail of them would, perhaps, convince him, that he was not unfortunate alone.

“ Ah! (replied the youth, overwhelmed with trouble) “ I complain “ not for myself, I make no doubt but I “ shall by some means find a subsistence; “ but in my misfortunes are involved a “ mother, and a sister;—it is for them I “ grieve.” On uttering these words, he was so affected, that he could proceed no further.

After walking some miles together, they entered a public house on the roadside, to refresh themselves: here, Hobart having entertained his companion with several anecdotes respecting his own troubles, they began to be familiar, and agreed to bear each other company as far as Bristol. As they were about to depart, a returned post chaise came up to the door, and they agreed with the

driver

driver to take them to Shrewsbury, where they arrived in the evening, and staid that night.

Early the next morning, they set out for Bridgnorth, and had not proceeded far, before the young man, at Hobart's request, began a brief detail of the circumstances which caused him to leave his native place, in the following words.

" My name is Samuel Eyrs, my father was possessed of an estate, worth about six hundred a year, in the vicinity of a small town, about a mile and a half from the place where you yesterday saw me come into the road. He was a man extremely whimsical and imprudent; my mother, though a sensible woman, was of too meek a disposition to check his extravagancies. My sister, about twelve months younger

" younger than me, and myself are the
 " only fruits of their marriage.

" My father had considerably in-
 " cumbered his estate, in my infancy;
 " yet, when I became old enough to
 " take a part in it's management, there
 " was a handsome sufficiency remaining.
 " About four years ago, however, no-
 " thing would satisfy him but he must
 " build a house on his own land, and for
 " that purpose borrowed a thousand
 " pounds more on his estate.

" While he was thus occupied, a per-
 " son who was born in the neighbour-
 " hood, an attorney by profession, and
 " one of the greatest villains that ever
 " disgraced the law, became enamoured
 " of my sister. From this wretch every-
 " thing was to be dreaded: honour and
 " honesty were perfect strangers to his
 " nature: he possessed some property,

D 4

" but

"but this he had acquired by practices
 "the most abominable: he had many
 "at his command who were hacknied in
 "perjury, by means of whom he had
 "reduced several honest families to beg-
 "gary. To him the dishonest applied
 "to avoid the payment of their debts,
 "and the robber to elude the pursuits
 "of the law: indeed he was a terror to
 "almost the whole country. The
 "Courts of Justice had wisely struck
 "him off the roll, but he continued his
 "depredations by means of the name of
 "an accomplice.

"Nature seemed to have lent an aid-
 "ing hand to the accomplishment of this
 "monster of iniquity, for his person and
 "address were as engaging as his heart
 "was black and designing; no wonder
 "then that he made an impression on
 "the heart of poor Sophia, at an age
 "when suspicion is a stranger to the
 "mind.

.. My

" My father was no sooner informed
 " of this, than he removed my sister to
 " the house of a friend, about twenty
 " miles distant, in so secret a manner,
 " that he thought her retreat could not
 " be discovered. We were induced the
 " more to fear for her safety, because
 " this man had seduced a young lady in
 " the neighbourhood, some time before;
 " but as she proved pregnant, her father
 " commenced an action against him,
 " and, in spite of his machinations,
 " recovered a considerable sum. He
 " has, however, taken ample vengeance
 " since he left the country, by involving
 " the whole family in ruin.

" It was the opinion of many that he
 " would direct his operations against my
 " father, in consequence of my sister's
 " removal; but, by what means I know
 " not, he soon discovered the place of
 " her retreat, and took her off in a post

D 5 " chaise,

“ chaise, since which I have never seen
“ her.

“ As soon as this came to my father's
“ knowledge, instead of prudently de-
“ liberating, instantly set off for London,
“ and hastened to every place where he
“ knew her seducer frequented, but got
“ no intelligence of them: from London,
“ without resting one night, he went to
“ Bath, and from Bath to Bristol, with no
“ better success. Being now entirely
“ exhausted by the violent perturbation
“ of his spirits, and the fatigue of his
“ journey, he was taken very ill; a fever
“ succeeded, and his life was thought to
“ be in imminent danger. My mother
“ went to Bristol, and attended him for
“ two months, before he could be brought
“ home; on his recovery, his constitution
“ seemed greatly impaired, his eye-sight
“ failed him, his hair forsook the crown
“ of his head, and old age seemed all
“ at

"at once to have taken hold of every
"faculty.

"Near twelve months elapsed before
"we heard anything of my sister,
"when a neighbour reported that he
"had seen her in London, and he
"believed she was married, for she was
"treated with great respect at the house
"of a reputable friend of his, and
"addressed by the title of Mrs. Caddin."
"Caddin, (interrupted Hobart) is that
"the name of the attorney alluded to
"in your narrative?" "Yes, (replied
Eys) and to whom I am indebted for
"my present destitute condition." It
is almost needless here to observe that
Hobart's attention was now more particularly engaged, while his companion
thus resumed the thread of his story.

"This information afforded us some
"little comfort, but alas! it wanted

D 6 "confr-

" confirmation. I had been now, for
" some time, superintendant of my
" father's farm; but experiencing some
" difficulty for want of money, I was
" resolved to embrace an opportunity of
" settling, which had long presented
" itself.

" From my earliest childhood I had
" been in habits of intimacy with the
" amiable daughter of Mr. Ark, a respectable
" farmer; a mutual affection grew up with us, and, as we
" were considered an equal match in
" point of property, it was encouraged
" by our parents on both sides. I now
" imparted to Nancy my intention of
" speaking to her father on the subject
" of matrimony, to which she, with a
" modest blush, consented, and the following
" Sunday was the time fixed on
" for that purpose; but alas! how uncertain
" are our dearest expectations.
" The

" The very day after, my father received
 " notice, from a Mr. Morgan, to pay in,
 " at a certain time, seven hundred
 " pounds, which he had borrowed on his
 " estate. This was rumoured about,
 " with additions much to our disadvantage,
 " so that my father's creditors all
 " came upon him, and threatened to
 " have recourse to the law if they were
 " not instantly paid. Here the silly
 " disposition of my unfortunate father
 " again involved us in further troubles.

" A few days after he had received
 " the above notice, a fellow called on
 " him, whom he well knew to have been
 " Caddin's particular acquaintance, and
 " had reason to believe he was still his
 " agent in the country." " Well (said
 he, accosting my father in a very familiar manner) " how do you do
 " Mr. Eyrs? I hear Morgan is going to
 " have

"have a tug at you." "I don't know,
 (replied the old gentleman) "I think he
 "uses me very ill to call so suddenly for
 "his money, when he knew himself
 "safe." "He is a damn'd rogue, (said
 the other) "and I could take you to a
 "man who would so manage him, that
 "he should not recover a penny."
 "Can you? (said my father, eagerly)
 "I should be extremely happy if you
 "would." "Well, (said he) but per-
 "haps you think Caddin your enemy;
 "he, you know, has done much greater
 "things than that." — "This obser-
 "vation instantly made Caddin's peace
 "with my father; for he well knew,
 "that he had not only deprived many
 "of greater sums, which were really
 "their due, but had severely handled
 "them for daring to make the demand.

"Before they parted, this fellow had
 "the address to persuade my father, that
 "nothing

" nothing was more easy than to
 " disengage himself from the mortgage,
 " at a small expence; but that he must
 " make a journey to London, to sign
 " certain instruments, when he should
 " be introduced to Caddin. To this the
 " poor deluded old gentleman readily
 " consented, and, the third day after,
 " they set out on their journey.

" When they had reached the metro-
 " polis, they stopped to refresh them-
 " selves at a coffee-house near Gray's
 " Inn; after which, my father's worthy
 " companion went in search of Caddin,
 " to communicate to him the particulars
 " of the business.

" In about an hour he returned, ac-
 " companied by his principal, who, on
 " entering the room, seemed to be much
 " surprised at the sight of my father,
 " when the other addressed him as fol-
 " lows : "

“lows:” — “Mr. Caddin, I hope you
“will excuse me for not informing you
“who the person was to whom I was
“going to introduce you; but knowing
“there had been some little misunderstanding between the two families, I
“thought proper to conceal it, lest it
“might have prevented your coming;
“but as the business on which we are
“met, is of much importance, I hope
“nothing will be said concerning your
“own private affairs to interrupt it.
“Caddin affected much importance, and
“said he certainly should not have come
“had he known.” “Pray, Mr. Caddin,
(interrupted the other) “as I know you
“have a generous heart, divest yourself of all animosity for the present,
“and do a good-natured act to your old
“friend and neighbour.” “I hope,
“Mr. Caddin, (said my father, with
much humility) “you do not think I
“came here to reproach you; on the
“contrary,

“contrary, if you can help me through
 “this difficulty, I shall always consider
 “myself under the greatest obligation.”

“The mediator now fairly stated the
 “case; when Caddin reflecting for a
 “few minutes, gravely said, that he could
 “completely prevent Morgan from re-
 “covering a single shilling, but that it
 “would be attended with an expence of
 “fifty pounds at least, which must be
 “advanced immediately.” “For God’s
 “sake, (said my father to his compa-
 “nion) “why had you not informed me
 “of this? I have no more than eight
 “or ten guineas, which I brought to
 “bear my travelling expences.” “Upon
 “my word, (replied the other) I was
 “ignorant of it myself, but Mr. Caddin,
 “perhaps, will be good enough to pro-
 “cure you fifty pounds for a few weeks.”
 “Why I don’t know (said Caddin) it is
 “a disagreeable business, but I will go
 “and

"and try if I can find a friend who will
 "advance so much money for a short
 "time." "The poor old man returned
 "him his hearty thanks, and he retired
 "for that purpose.

"He was absent about an hour
 "and a half, during which time my
 "father and his companion, exulting in
 "the probability of their success, made
 "very free with the bottle.

"Caddin now returned, accom-
 "panied by a very genteel person, and
 "told my father that he had, with diffi-
 "culty, found this friend, who would
 "oblige him with the sum he wanted,
 "for a few months, on his bond. After
 "mutual compliments they took their
 "seats, and the wine circulated abun-
 "dantly, while Caddin withdrew to pre-
 "pare the instruments. After some
 "time he returned, the writings were
 "executed,

" executed, and the money paid into my
 " father's hands, which he, with a great
 " deal of satisfaction, delivered to Caddin, and repeatedly returned them
 " his sincere thanks. A short time after,
 " the company separated, previous to
 " which Caddin told my father he must
 " stay in town a few days to finish the business, when he might return to the
 " country, and make himself perfectly
 " easy respecting Morgan's claim.

" On the following morning, my
 " father's companion went out to call on
 " a few friends, saying he would return
 " to dinner, but he appeared no more.

" My unfortunate parent staid in
 " town more than a fortnight, making
 " fruitless enquiries; but being unable
 " to find either Caddin or his friend, he
 " then returned to the country, when he
 " found, that what he had executed in
 " London

" London was a bond for seven hundred
 " pounds, and a warrant to confess judgment, by virtue of which they had sold off
 " by auction, every moveable on his estate,
 " and the very corn standing in the fields:

" He came to me and my mother,
 " who had taken refuge at a neighbour's
 " house, in a state of despair, where he
 " remained but a short time, before his
 " estate was sold to satisfy his creditors;
 " and no mercy was shewn him, because
 " his attempt to cheat Morgan was known
 " to every one. Attornies, bailiffs, and
 " auctioneers now came in for a share
 " of the spoil; and his property being
 " insufficient to satisfy them all, he was
 " arrested, and thrown into the county
 " gaol.

" My mother then took up her residence in the house of a friend, to
 " whom she was no incumbrance,
 " because

"because she has made herself useful in
 "the family; and I, unable to leave her,
 "have, for some time, submitted to the
 "drudgery of servitude.

"About three months ago, however,
 "my father's miseries seemed to be ap-
 "proaching to a final period; his suf-
 "ferings now so afflicted us, and his
 "desire to come home was so great, that
 "we were induced to levy a fine to bar
 "my mother's dower, by which we ob-
 "tained a sum sufficient to procure his
 "liberty. This exhausted our last re-
 "sources, and he survived it but for a
 "short time; for last week it pleased
 "God to terminate his troubles, and on
 "Sunday he was taken to the vault of
 "his ancestors.

"Scarcely were the melancholy ob-
 "sequies performed, when a letter came
 "by the post, directed to him, which I
 "will

" will instantly shew you." He then pulled from his pocket the following letter, which he gave Hobart to read.

" To NICHOLAS EYRS, Esq.

" Sir,

" About two months since an unfortunate young woman became a patient in this charity; she seemed greatly enfeebled by affliction and distress; every assistance has been afforded her, but it is feared she is too far exhausted to be able to recover. On Sunday last, believing the time of her dissolution nearly arrived, she desired my wife to take a letter from her pocket, which she said was for her father, and requested it might be forwarded as soon as she was no more.

" Seeing, by the address, that she belonged to a respectable family, I thought

"thought proper to give you immediate information."

"Yours, &c.

"A. L.

"*Bristol Infirmary.*"

"Thus, (said young Eyrs) has this base monster brought to the verge of the grave this poor girl, who has scarcely reached her twentieth year.

"Soon after my father's circumstances began to decline, (continued he) I had clearly perceived that Mr. Ark considered me by no means a proper match for his daughter, and now that I had lost all expectation on my mother's dower, he strictly forbade her from admitting my visits in future. The dear maid, with tears in her eyes, had but just informed me of this terrible interdiction, when the letter arrived concerning my sister; this instantly determined me to leave the country,

"country, and to go and afford her every
"assistance in my power.

"I took leave of my mother, whom
"I left in the house of the friend who
"had given her an asylum during my
"father's imprisonment, and, through
"the medium of an acquaintance, having
"informed Nancy of my intention, she,
"accompanied by a female confidant,
"found means to meet me yesterday
"morning, and our final separation took
"place near the end of the lane where you
"first saw me. At parting the dear girl
"gave me a small box, tied up in her
"own pocket handkerchief, to keep for
"hersake, which I have not yet opened."

By this time they had reached Colebrook Dale, and stopped at the sign of the Iron Bridge to refresh themselves. Hobart now earnestly advised him to get on the top of the first Bristol coach they

they might see on the road, and to make the best of his way thither, lest his sister should not live 'till his arrival; nor, though he had been Caddin's coadjutor, could he reflect on his conduct, in this instance, but with horror. As they sat to rest themselves, after taking a slender repast, young Eyrs untied the handkerchief, in which was the box his Nancy had presented him with at parting, and how great was his surprise to find, on opening it, eight guineas folded up curiously in a piece of paper, on which were written the following words.

“ The inclosed is intended for the
 “ assistance of poor Sophia, with the
 “ sincere respect of her commiserating
 “ friend—Pray write to me very often—
 “ I never shall enjoy peace 'till I see
 “ again my poor wandering lad.”

“ Adieu,

“ A. ARK.

Vol. II.

E

AN

An effusion of tears, on discovering this unexpected instance of generosity, and the delicate mode she had taken to execute it, expressed the feelings of the youth, better than any thing which could have been found in the power of language.

They now proceeded on their journey, resolving to make the best of their way. Having been fortunate enough, by the help of a returned post-chaise, to get to Worcester that night, they took places on the outside of the coach, and arrived in Bristol the following day.

Young Eyrs now, having solicited the favour of Hobart's company, hastened instantly to the infirmary, and enquired for his sister, but had the mortification to find that she had expired two days before. At this information the poor young fellow burst into tears, and was absorbed

absorbed in the most poignant sorrow, while he heard from the nurse the melancholy tale of her sufferings. Having received the letter which she intended for her father, he returned to the inn with Hobart, and found it couched in the following terms.

“ Honored Sir,

“ Had I not forfeited all title to
 “ the affection of my parents, I now
 “ might have claimed the tender
 “ miseration of a most indulgent father
 “ and mother; and the painful affliction
 “ which bears me to the grave, might
 “ have been softened by receiving the
 “ last offices of kindness from their
 “ sympathizing hands. But I must not
 “ complain; it is, perhaps, more than I
 “ deserve, that I should receive assistance
 “ even from the cold hand of indifference:
 “ difference: hoping, however, that the
 “ mercies of God, in compassion to my

E 2

“ suffer-

" sufferings and sincere repentance, will
 " be extended towards me, I await, with
 " the utmost serenity, the arrival of the
 " happy moment, which, I hope, will
 " relieve me from all my troubles, and
 " consign to the same grave with your
 " unworthy daughter, the remembrance
 " of her offences.

" It is not to murmur, or wound the
 " feelings of a fond parent, that I sit
 " down to write; but beholding the
 " approach of death, I conceived I should
 " add another crime to the many which
 " stand on record against me, if I took
 " no means to inform those who gave
 " me birth, how it had pleased the divine
 " will to dispose of me.

" Soon, too soon, after I had quitted
 " the protection of a father, was my ruin
 " effected; shame and remorse were not
 " the only consequences of my crime;
 " I pre-

"I presently discovered that my seducer,
 "under a form the most engaging, disguised a heart fraught with the most
 "inhuman cruelty. A detail of my
 "sufferings would scarcely be credible;
 "it is sufficient to say, that the unfeeling
 "brute, though he knew my heart
 "was wholly devoted to him, after exposing
 "me for a long time to contempt
 "and disgrace, suffered me to want
 "bread, and finally, left me a prey to
 "disease, without acquainting me of my
 "danger.

"Friendless, pennyless, and afflicted,
 "I lingered for some time; and was on
 "the point of perishing in the street;
 "but a compassionate stranger, at last,
 "took pity on my misery, and recommended
 "me to this charity; here I
 "patiently attend the final summons,
 "and when this shall be transmitted to
 "you, could you but conceive how dear

E 3

"the

"the names of father, mother, and brother have always been to me, you might, perhaps, suspend for a moment the remembrance of my transgressions, and drop a tear to the memory of your unfortunate daughter,

"S. EYRS."

The effect of the above letter on young Eyrscannot be described. Hobart himself, on contemplating the melancholy subject, was unable to withhold a tear of pity.

The following day Hobart began to deliberate how he should emerge from his present obscurity—He had but a few shillings left, and could by no means think of appearing at Bath so meanly equipped; he therefore resolved again to have recourse to the generous Miss H—, in a letter to whom, his ingenuity

nnity furnished him with such plausible excuses for his late conduct, and so persuasive a mode of appeal, that it procured him a long letter in reply, covering a bill for a sum sufficient to extricate him from his difficulties.

His companion, who, after a day or two, began to be very uneasy lest he should get no engagement, had the good fortune to recognize the captain of a West-Indianman, who was some distant relation to his mother, and had, a few years before, been on a visit at his father's. This gentleman, on being acquainted with his destitute condition, took him under his protection, when Hobart kindly took leave of him. Our adventurer now changed every article of dress, and in a few days again assumed the gentleman.

C H A P. XVII.

Hobart discovers an old acquaintance, sets out for London, and is again enslaved by the charms of beauty.

As the tenor of the letter he had received from Miss H—— had sufficiently informed him that his reputation was entirely blasted at Bath, he declined all thoughts of re-visiting that city; for though he perceived there was still an opportunity of offering himself to her, on whose bounty he had drawn so largely, he felt himself nowise so inclined.

As he was meditating how he should dispose of himself in future, he suddenly recollected that Mr. Jefferson's family, whom he had accompanied from America, resided somewhere in Bristol. This gave him great pleasure, as the pleasing impression

pression that gentleman's youngest daughter had made on his mind, was far from being effaced. He accordingly began to enquire, but for some time could find nobody who knew any such people. At last he was told, that a family of that name had, some time before, lived in the neighbourhood of the Hot Wells. Determined, if possible, to be satisfied, he visited that quarter, where he learnt that the old gentleman had been dead for some time, that his son had obtained from government a considerable sum of money, as a compensation for his losses in America, and resided now with his wife and family on an estate he had purchased near Wells. That his eldest daughter, the widow, was lately married to a very respectable merchant of Bristol, with whom the youngest sister, who was also on the point of marriage, usually resided.

Hobart felt himself greatly interested in this information, and having learnt the gentleman's name and place of abode, he resolved to pay them a visit.

On the following morning, having dressed himself in a very genteel manner, he went, knocked at the door, and enquired for the gentleman. On being told he was not at home, but that the lady was within, he sent up his compliments, as a strange gentleman, who intreated the honour of an interview for a few moments.

The servant returned, and desired him to walk up stairs. On entering the apartment, he saw the lady at tea, accompanied by a little girl about four years old. On beholding Hobart she was overwhelmed with confusion, and was, with difficulty, able to support herself; she invited him, however, to be seated, but

but could by no means recover her tranquillity.

After having endeavoured, in vain, to reconcile her, he said, if he had thought his presence would have so afflicted her, he would have pursued his journey, and have denied himself the pleasure of paying her a visit.

On seeing her so much distressed, the child began to weep, when Hobart took it on his knee, and endeavoured to amuse it, but the girl cried "I'll go to mamma, I'll go to mamma." On hearing this he began to suspect the true cause of this violent perturbation of her spirits.

He now kissed the child, put it on the mother's lap, and earnestly requested her to be composed, lest any one should enter, and appearances should operate to the injury

injury of her reputation. "Think not, Madam, (continued he) I came to give you the least uneasiness, give me leave but again to embrace that little innocent, and I will instantly retire." This he did, and then attempted to open the door, when she requested him to stay a few minutes.

Being now somewhat recovered, "I clearly perceive (said she) you need not be told to whose imprudence this little orphan is indebted for it's existence. This has been a severe thorn in my breast, particularly since I have emerged a little from that ignorance, which the want of intercourse with polite people, before my arrival in England, had involved me. And now that I am better acquainted with the world, I perceive the very means I used to conceal my shame, are become the principal cause of my trouble; for,

" on

" on discovering my condition, I impru-
dently attributed it to the consequence
" of my marriage, and indeed there are
" but three, nay, I may now say four,
" who know to the contrary; but I
" greatly lament that all who knew me
" were not at first informed of the real
" truth, after which I should have had
" nothing further to fear; but now, alas!
" a discovery would considerably blacken
" my crime, and perhaps alienate from me
" the affection of the best of husbands.
" I trust you are a gentleman who would
" not delight to give pain to one who
" never offended you; and I have too
" good an opinion of your under-
standing to suppose you will be sur-
prized at being told that your pre-
sence, as I am now situated, can pro-
duce in my mind no other sensation.
" As, therefore, I have spoken to you
" with the greatest candour, permit me
" to add, that since you have said it is
" your

" your wish to give me no uneasiness,
 " the only way you can give effect to an
 " inclination so generous, is to conduct
 " yourself towards me, should we ever
 " meet again, as to a perfect stranger".

The native sincerity with which she
 delivered the above request, which was
 in itself so truly reasonable, induced
 him to promise the strictest compliance.
 He now learnt, that her sister had been
 married about a fortnight, and was then
 in London with her husband; when
 having again embraced the little girl,
 while the mother assured him she should
 always have the first place in her affec-
 tion, he very respectfully took his leave.

Hobart's expectations from that quar-
 ter having all intirely vanished, he
 resolved to make the best of his way to
 the metropolis, and accordingly the next
 day,

day, he took a place in one of the coaches, and set off for London.

As he was standing at the inn-door at Slough, while they were changing horses, a Bath coach came up, and stopped for the same purpose; presently two ladies descended, and as they passed him to enter the inn, one of them called him by his name, and asked him how he did. He turned suddenly to look at her, but had too slight a glance to recognize her. At this moment he was informed the coach was ready, so that he was obliged to proceed, before he had an opportunity of discovering who she was.

He had not long revolved this circumstance in his mind, before he perceived how deficient he had been in not quitting the Bristol coach at Slough, since he might have taken a place to London with the ladies, who seemed to be the only

only passengers. The more he considered this subject, the more anxious he became to know who this lady could be. All his female acquaintance presented themselves successively to his mind, with whom he compared in idea, the faint impression the out lines of this lady had made on his imagination, but this only acted as a stimulus on his curiosity, and increased his anxiety.

Resolving, at last, to satisfy himself, if possible, he mounted the coach box, that the Bath coach might not escape his notice; but he saw nothing of it till he had reached Hounslow, when, a few minutes after he had alighted, he had the pleasure of seeing it come, and stop at the same house where he was. He now stepped to the carriage door, to offer the ladies his assistance, and instantly perceived one of them to be Miss Bower, the little blooming enchantress of Bath, whose

whose favours had subjected him to so disagreeable a disaster in the coal-hole.

Hobart had scarcely handed the ladies into an apartment, when he was informed that the coach waited for him: but having obtained permission to accompany them to town, he ordered it to proceed without him.

After mutual congratulations on each other's health and prosperity, in which each party manifested sufficient signs of satisfaction at this unexpected meeting, Miss Bower informed him, that she was making a journey of pleasure to the metropolis; that Miss Porlock, her companion, knew London well, had been a few months at Bath, and being about to return, had kindly offered to accompany her, and, as she was a stranger in town, to assist her in procuring accommodations on their arrival. Hobart complimented

mented her on being so fortunate as to meet with so agreeable a companion, and hoped he should have the pleasure of conducting them to the principal places of public entertainment.

On entering the carriage, he observed a mourning ring on the finger of Miss Bower, and, on enquiry, found that her *cher ami* had died a few weeks before, and rewarded her fidelity with a legacy of five hundred pounds, and a considerable share of his moveables, which she had disposed of previous to undertaking the journey. This information was the more pleasing, because the tender glances of the fair legatee, sufficiently assured him, that she was willing to commit to his charge, the care of both her person and property.

Having reached the vicinity of London, Hobart proposed to take the ladies
where

where they should be genteelly treated ; but Miss Porlock had, by this time, clearly discovered that the friendship which subsisted between her two companions, was of that kind to which her presence could be by no means friendly ; she therefore thanked him for his polite attention, and said she would recommend Miss Bower to his protection, but, as for herself, she should go to the house of Mrs. W——, in Poland Street, where she should be perfectly at home. After some slight objection, on the part of Miss Bower, which Hobart easily found means to reconcile, the above arrangement was agreed to, and, first having accompanied the lady to the place of her destination, they took their luggage with them in a hackney coach, and were driven to a hotel in the Adelphi.

Here

Here they resolved to take up their residence, till they had engaged servants, and procured some genteel, furnished apartments. Hobart now learnt that his little mistress was in possession of near six hundred pounds, besides jewels, and other valuables to a considerable amount. She also told him, that Miss Porlock, her companion from Bath, had been rather unfortunate, that her father was a reputable tradesman in Yorkshire, and that, under pretence of making a matrimonial trip, she had been brought to London, by the eldest son of a baronet in that county, whose health soon after beginning to decline, he came with her to Bath, and there died, leaving her entirely destitute. She said she had furnished her with money, to enable her to come to town, that she had no other acquaintance with Mrs. W——, in Po-land-Street, than having lodged at her house when she first came to London; hinting

hinting at the same time, that as soon as they were settled, she could wish to take her with them, 'till her friends were reconciled to her, or that she was otherwise provided for. Hobart highly approved of this act of kindness, and in a few days after, he, accompanied by the two ladies, went into commodious lodgings in the neighbourhood of Bloomsbury.

They now visited alternately, all those scenes of amusement which the metropolis presents, in such a variety, for the entertainment of the youthful and the gay: nor, for a while, did this pleasing dream receive the smallest interruption; for health, youth, love, and plenty, seemed to make a formidable stand against the approaches of care: but as the pleasures of this life are subject to so many accidents, and human nature is so incapable of being long pleased

pleased with any one thing, it will not be wondered at, that the tranquillity of this society should soon be deranged.

The uninterrupted possession of his mistress, in a short time rendered Hobart totally indifferent towards her; and as the mind, during a certain period, will not remain long vacant, all his tenderness was, by degrees, transferred to Miss Porlock. This lady, whatever were her inclinations, conceived herself, in gratitude to her benefactress, bound to give him no kind of encouragement, and therefore took every means in her power to avoid his addresses. But as affections of this kind increase in proportion as the difficulties to obtain the object present themselves, Hobart, whose eyes daily beheld forbidden charms, became so enamoured, that he was determined to possess her at any rate.

This

This lady was endowed with many personal attractions, but they were of a different species from those of Miss Bower. The latter was a pretty little figure, with an amorous constitution, made to dissolve in the sweet delirium of love, possessing a chearful temper, and a heart sympathising and incapable of disguise. The former was rather above the middle size, excellently proportioned, with the most delicate and engaging features, shrude, penetrating, and a little phlegmatic, so that she was capable of restraining her inclinations.

She perceived the progress of Hobart's passion, and by affecting a degree of indifference, wrought it up almost to a state of frenzy. He had recourse to various stratagems to catch her alone, but his passion had deprived him of sufficient ingenuity, and she generally found means to elude him.

Seizing,

Seizing, however, an opportunity at last, he addressed her in the most pathetic manner, offering to submit to any conditions she should propose, and even hinted at matrimony; at this she laughed heartily, and asked him what prospect there could be in such a state without resources; "besides (said she) how ungrateful are you thus to treat a lady who is entirely devoted to you! Is not Miss Bower willing to spend every shilling she possesses for your sake?—What an ungrateful monster thus to requite her love! and as for me, who have subsisted on her generous benevolence, should I not deserve public execration, were I to listen to your persuasions for a moment?"—Hobart allowed her reasoning was good, and that Miss Bower possessed a most benevolent heart; "but, (said he) we have it not in our power to love whom we please; if our nature had enabled the will to direct that passion,

"passion, I should stand condemned,
 "and you would be criminal to hear
 "me; but surely we cannot be account-
 "able for the caprice of that, over which
 "nature has given us no superintend-
 "ence. I cannot help loving you, and all
 "my efforts will not enable me to transfer
 "that affection to Miss Bower." "Poor
 "unfortunate gentleman, (said she, smi-
 "ling) "your case most certainly deserves
 "pity, and that, it seems, is in my power"
 "to bestow; but, according to your own
 "reasoning, any thing further depends
 "not on my will, and, having proved
 "this so clearly, you surely will not run
 "into the absurdity of blaming me."

Hobart, on several occasions, had
 recourse to various modes of reasoning,
 but found himself generally foiled by the
 sprightly wit of his fair opponent, and
 this only tended to inflame his desires.
 Sometimes he thought his want of suc-

cess was owing to a natural apathy ; but when he viewed the prolific traits with which she was so amply gifted, he could not believe that nature had created them in vain.

Miss Bower, in spite of Hobart's efforts to conceal it, began to perceive she was slighted ; but such was the texture of her disposition, that, though crosses or disappointments affected her very severely, it was but of short duration, and her nature was a total stranger to every species of revenge : but the following circumstance, perhaps, enabled her to bear the loss of Hobart's affection with more than common fortitude.

She had frequently, in company with Miss Porlock, visited Mrs. W——, in Poland-Street, who kept a large house, elegantly furnished, for the accommodation of two or three young ladies, who had

had dedicated their charms to the solace of a few gentlemen of high rank. Amongst those who frequented this house, was a nobleman, celebrated for his exploits in the province of Venus, even to a very advanced age.

On the first day Miss Bower visited Mrs. W——, his lordship came, and drank a cup of tea with the ladies. The native vivacity, embonpoint, and blooming tint of little Bower, was so much to his lordship's taste, that he displayed much gallantry during his stay, and, on his departure, commissioned Mrs. W—— to offer the lady very liberal terms. The old lady took an opportunity of acquainting her with the importance of her conquest, not forgetting to make several remarks on his lordship's unbounded generosity, but little Bower was so firmly attached to her

F 2 engage-

engagement with Hobart, that she would then listen to no terms whatever.

Mrs. W—— was too well acquainted with the instability of human nature, to suppose that this refusal made success the less probable, and therefore made a favourable report to his lordship, signifying that the little baggage had shewn some resistance in consequence of a love affair, but that she had no doubt of giving his lordship a good account of her in a short time.

Having, through the medium of Miss Porlock, learned the particulars of her connexion with Hobart, the old lady took an opportunity of rallying her upon her imprudence. “What! (said she) “will obliging his lordship rob you of “your lover? on the contrary, as your “treasure is not inexhaustible, is it not “the best mode you can take to secure “him?

"him? By indulging his lordship with
 "an occasional interview, of which your
 "lover cannot have the smallest suspicion, his generosity may enable you to
 "bid defiance to want."—These, and
 similar reasons, added to Hobart's coldness, began to have some weight with
 little Bower.

This happened just at the time that
 Hobart had urged his suit to Miss Porlock
 with such energy, that she acknowledged
 if she saw any future prospect independent
 of Miss Bower, to have recourse to
 in case of incurring her displeasure, she
 perhaps might be inclined to hear him.
 Thus, while little Bower was on the
 point of receiving a visit from his lordship,
 Miss Porlock had almost promised
 to crown Hobart's happiness. Several
 opportunities, however, presented themselves,
 of which he expected to have taken
 advantage, but she as constantly

F 3 disap-

disappointed him, and this induced him still to believe that it proceeded from a natural insensibility.

A few days previous to a masquerade at the Pantheon, the ladies happened to pay a visit in Poland Street, and there, at his lordship's request, each was presented with a ticket, and invited to join a company from that house. Hobart, on being informed of this, though he shewed some signs of dissatisfaction, was highly pleased, and, with a degree of raillery, told them, since they had chosen their company, he found himself at liberty to do the same, and spoke with much pleasantry of an unexpected encounter. But the gentlemen had different objects in view; his lordship was charmed with the expectation of conducting his little Helena to a place of retirement, during a great part of the night, and Hobart saw a fair prospect of obliging his
capri-

capricious mistress to conform to his wishes. He imparted to her his plan, and enforced his intreaties with such ardour, that she could no longer resist. This lady was, perhaps, the more readily reduced to compliance, by being aware of his lordship's designs, and therefore might think it was a sort of just retaliation, to reward Hobart for this slight instance of infidelity in his mistress.

Little Bower privately procured the habit of a shepherdess, and her companion that of a milk-maid: Hobart and his lordship, whose minds were more employed in the consideration of private, than public amusements, adopted the domino.

The evening arrived, and the ladies went with their company in Poland Street, which, in fact, consisted of no other person than his Lordship. They

F 4
had

had scarcely viewed the apartments, when his lordship and the shepherdess disappeared, so that when Hobart came, he found his lovely milk-maid alone. They had taken but a few turns round the dome, before Hobart proposed to retire; the lady endeavoured to restrain his impetuosity, intreating him to stay a little, as she had never seen a masquerade; but his impatience could not be suppressed, and she was obliged to comply. He now handed her into a hackney coach, and they were driven to one of the first houses of genteel accommodation, where, at last, he was rewarded with all that love could bestow, and soon received a most charming proof that he was never more mistaken, than when he had believed she opposed his passion through a degree of insensibility.

The rewards of love generally meliorate the mind into a noble generosity, and

and unlock the hidden secrets of the heart; thus, when dissolved in his soft caresses, she could not help disclosing his lordship's passion for Miss Bower, the offers he had made her, and her suspicion of their having spent the evening together. Hobart, at this information, was highly pleased, and began to deliberate how it could best be turned to their advantage; but the morning being pretty far advanced, it was time to depart.

Having previously ordered a coach, they arose, and presently heard the voice of the waiter signifying the coach was ready. It happened that another coach had been ordered by a gentleman and lady who occupied the next room, and when the waiter uttered the words "the coach is ready, Sir," his voice was heard by both the gentlemen, and there instantly appeared on the stair-case his

F 5 lordship

lordship and the shepherdess, with Hobart and the milk-maid.

To describe their mutual confusion would be impossible; they descended together without speaking a word; and when they came to the door, found, to their inexpressible confusion, that there was but one coach; this obliged them to speak, and to enquire for whom it was ordered. Hobart, at last, to get out of the difficulty, politely gave his lordship the preference.

Little Bower having returned to Poland-Street, communicated this extraordinary adventure to Mrs. W——, who now found it an easy matter to persuade her to take up her residence at her house, and to throw herself entirely upon his lordship's protection. Hobart and his companion returned to their lodgings in
Bloomsbury,

Bloomsbury, fully determined to indulge their mutual passion without restraint.

Little Bower sent for the trunks containing her clothes, &c. which were instantly delivered; but Hobart had near a hundred pounds in cash, which he thought proper to appropriate to his own accommodation.

CHAP. XVIII.

Hobart is reduced to necessity, tried for a fraud, assumes the title of Lord Massey, and is engaged in another adventure.

HE now took lodgings in Mary-le-Bonne, where he resided with his mistress near seven months. At the end of this time she appeared in a fair way of becoming a mother, and his difficulties began to accumulate abundantly. His finances were entirely exhausted, and he had contracted debts to a considerable amount; his creditors also becoming extremely troublesome, he found it convenient to change his name, lodging, and appearance.

It was at this time that he wrote a letter to Lord Howard, in the name of an officer known to his lordship, by which

which he obtained a temporary supply. He practised the same fraud on several other gentlemen, with various success, and subsisted in this manner for some months, continually shifting from place to place. About this time his mistress was delivered of a child, but, fortunately, it died in a very few days; and, before she had perfectly recovered, he was taken into custody for defrauding Lord Howard, for which he was tried, and acquitted through a flaw in the indictment. His mistress, on beholding so dreadful a prospect before her, procured, with difficulty, a sum sufficient to bear her expences, and returned to the place of her nativity.

Being reduced to extreme necessity, he wrote a letter to the Duke of York, in the name of an officer in the Coldstream regiment, which procured him twelve guineas. This imposition was discovered, and he fell into the hands of
some

some of the Bow-Street runners. His Royal Highness attended at his examination, and the evidence was found sufficiently strong, yet was the Duke inclined to have pardoned him; but Sir C—— A——ll said it was false cle-
mency, and so strongly recommended a prosecution, that he was tried and convicted; but his Royal Highness not wishing to be severe, he was fined one shilling, and discharged.

Although he had so narrowly escaped, he still continued in the exercise of various species of depredation, and formed a connexion with several notorious swindlers, who occasionally appeared in livery as his servants.

Amongst other attempts scarcely worth mentioning, he passed himself upon a watch-maker in Holborn, as the Duke of Manchester, and ordered two valuable
watches

watches to be sent to his lodgings in Charles Street, St. James's Square; but, the watch-maker having discovered that his grace was abroad, instead of watches, sent him two officers from Bow Street. Hobart happened at that time to be near his own lodging, and on seeing the myrmidons, whom he well knew, hastily decamped.

Having been successful in several impositions, which had been tolerably productive, he was now determined to make one bold stroke; and accordingly, having prepared every thing necessary, on the 15th of March, 1791, he took lodgings at the house of Mrs. Horten, in St. James's Palace, under the title of Lord Massey, and, on the morning of the 16th, engaged a French servant.

He ordered this man to take a large trunk and a portmanteau in a coach, from Ibberston's coffee house in Vere Street,

Street, to his new lodgings. While his servant was thus employed, he went to the house of Mess. Willerton and Green, jewellers, in Bond Street, to look at some goods. He told Mr. Green he was recommended by Lord Salisbury, and, wishing to see a greater variety than was at that time in the shop, he gave Mr. Green a card to wait on him at his lodgings at four o'clock in the afternoon. On one side of this card were the words Lord Massey, and on the other, No. 36, St. James's Place. He now went to his new lodgings, where he arrived about twelve o'clock, and instantly dispatched his servant, with one of his cards, for Dr. Hunter. As soon as the servant was gone, he went out himself, and left word he was gone to visit the Duke of Argyle, but should return immediately. He came again to his lodgings a few minutes after his servant had returned, and
presently

presently a porter came with a letter directed for Lord Massey.

Mr. Green waited on him with the jewellery goods at the appointed hour, and, while his lordship was inspecting them, Dr. Hunter entered, when Mr. Green was desired to withdraw for a few minutes. He was soon called in again, and his lordship then made choice of a pair of diamond ear-rings, a necklace, a watch, and chain, value seven hundred and sixty pounds, which he desired might be put up in cases, and brought to him before five o'clock. Mr. Green returned at the appointed hour with the goods and his bill: Hobart looked it over, asked if it was the lowest, and then went to a drawer, and produced a check for 144*l.* on Mess. Thomas Cutts and Co. bankers, payable to Lord Massey or bearer, signed Tankerville.

During all this time he had conducted himself with so much ease and genteel address,

address, that neither Mr. Green, Dr. Hunter, his servant, nor the people of the house entertained the least suspicion of his being an impostor; on the contrary, so well was Mr. Green satisfied, that he actually went home, and returned with a draft on his own house for the difference, without making the least enquiry.

On Mr. Green's return the second time, his lordship was gone out; he waited near half an hour, and then told the servant he would call in the morning. Early the next day, however, he thought proper to go to the house of Mess. Cutts and Co. and there, to his utter astonishment, discovered that the note he had received was a forgery. Having hastily procured some assistance from Bow Street, he went again to St. James's place; the poor French servant was there, but his lordship had not returned. They

They then opened the trunk and port-manteau, where they found a sufficient explanation of his lordship's character, by discovering they were filled with bricks, tiles, and hay-bands. Mr. Green now advertised him, and published handbills, offering a reward, but all to no purpose. Hobart did not even now quit London, but assuming a disguise, readily disposed of these articles before the circumstance was publicly known, and thus possessed himself of a very considerable sum of money.

He now took lodgings at a large house in Mary-le-Bonne, by the name of Holmes, intending to enjoy a state of ease and retirement, 'till the noise of the above circumstance had a little subsided. The people of the house were led to believe him a young gentleman of considerable property, in the study of the law, who was just come from Scotland, to stay
in

in town a few months for improvement; and he kept his room so constantly, that he was believed a very prudent, steady young gentleman.

This house was kept by the widow of a clergyman, named Walsh, a middle-aged lady, of a most amiable temper, whose husband had died some years before, leaving her with two small children, whom, with great frugality, she had supported in a reputable manner, upon an annuity of thirty pounds, and the emoluments arising from furnished apartments, with which she accommodated some genteel people who visited London occasionally.

Hobart perceiving, after a short time, he had acquired the esteem of the mistress of the house, signified his wish to board with the family, saying that going from home detached him from that
recluse

recluse kind of life which was most agreeable to his inclination. Mrs. Walsh, after apologizing for the frugal accommodation of her table, readily consented, and was happy in having so moderate, sober, and moral a young gentleman for a boarder.

He had been in this house about three weeks, when a Mr. Remer, a gentleman of Norfolk, who had frequently occupied apartments in Mrs. Walsh's house, came to town, with a maiden sister, about forty-three years of age, his daughter about twenty, and a Miss Ortwood, his niece, a young lady about eighteen, to whom he was guardian. This family visited town according to their annual custom, and Mrs. Walsh was so prepossessed in favour of Hobart, that she recommended her friends to his acquaintance with the utmost confidence.

Hobart,

Hobart, who sat at table with them daily, so ingratiated himself into their favour, that they seemed highly pleased with his company; the old gentleman especially, whose peculiar temper Hobart soon found means to humour, could, after a short time, enjoy no public entertainment without him. Towards the ladies he took great care to conduct himself with the most delicate respect and reverence.

In a few days he learned from Mrs. Walsh, that Mr. Remer was a gentleman of considerable property, his daughter an only child, and his niece entitled to a good estate, if she married with his approbation; that the property of Madam Mary, his sister, was considerable also, which, if she kept single, would, in all probability, be divided between the two young ladies.

The

The person of Miss Remer was by no means captivating, but Miss Ortwood was a most charming young lady, and such effect had her beauty on our adventurer, that he actually formed the laudable design of conducting her to the hymeneal altar; but this he thought would be attended with some difficulty. He had reason to think, that a declaration of his sentiments would be nowise disagreeable, but he feared, that through her youth and inexperience, something might escape which might lead to a discovery too soon for the execution of his plan; for he was well aware, that, as soon as his pretensions were known, his family, property, and connexions would undergo a strict scrutiny. Hetherefore thought proper carefully to reserve himself 'till his scheme was properly matured.

Accordingly

Accordingly he affected a particular propensity for solitude, and spent his time principally in his own apartment, amusing himself on the guitar, an instrument he touched with a masterly finger; and when invited to accompany Mr. Remer and his family to the theatre, or any other place of public amusement, he suffered himself to be courted for some time, but, whenever the ladies used their influence, he readily consented.

Many letters came, addressed to him, by the post, which he pretended were from his friends in Scotland. At last he said he expected his father in town, for whom he engaged an apartment for a few days in the same house, and on the appointed day, a genteel, elderly gentleman arrived, with his luggage, as though immediately from a stage coach. The old gentleman staid near a week, was treated with great respect by Mr. Remer and his family, and

and was highly complimented upon the amiable qualities of his son: "Ah! (said the old gentleman) "he is a tolerable "good lad, but I had more trouble to "rear the young dog than to furnish "him with a good estate." On his departure he cordially invited Mr. Remer and the ladies to visit him in Scotland, where, he said, notwithstanding the ridicule bestowed on his country, he would find means to treat them with hospitality.

After the old gentleman's departure, their familiarity encreased abundantly, and, as Hobart affected much diffidence, the ladies, charmed by his performance on the guitar, frequently took the liberty of visiting him in his own apartment; for Madam Remer, who superintended the young ladies, having set the example, her two nieces readily followed it.

Hobart's attention to the aunt, had wonderfully prepossessed that lady in his favour, and though she had never before been profuse in her compliments on the male sex, she one day, said in the presence of the two young ladies and her brother, that Mr. Holmes was the most sensible; sober, modest, young gentleman she had ever been acquainted with. In this, the two young ladies perfectly agreed with her, though they frequently differed widely on many other matters of opinion. But the old gentleman, who was surprized to hear his sister make an exception in Hobart's favour, swore that if young Holmes had but a little more devil in him, he supposed he should lose his house-keeper. At this, the young ladies could not help smiling, which so exasperated the aunt, that she poured forth a torrent of invectives against her brother, saying, that if all men were as vulgar in their manners

ners as him, she was sure, that the sensible part of her sex would prefer a state of celibacy.

Hobart's scheme was now in such forwardness, that he waited only for an opportunity to declare his sentiments verbally to Miss Ortwood, not doubting from the effect of some little preliminaries, but they would be favourably received. Accident, however, frequently diverts the best digested plans.

As he was sitting one morning in his own apartment, accompanied by the aunt, the old lady screwed up her mouth and said, "sure Mr. Holmes you delight so much in a domestic life, that matrimony will contribute greatly to your comfort." "Indeed madam (replied he) that will depend principally upon the disposition of my partner, for should I have a wife of a gay roman-

"tic turn, she might disturb that tranquillity which is so congenial to my nature, and considerably diminish my happiness." "Indeed sir (replied she simpering) that is a consideration which has always had great weight with me, and has been the reason why I have refused so many proposals, very advantageous in point of propriety, to alter my condition." "But would you madam (said Hobart directing towards her a tender look) refuse another, provided that objection did not exist?" "Indeed sir (said the amorous prude mustering up all the engaging attractions she was mistress of) you urge me too close."

Hobart, who knew the value of this acquisition too well to let it escape, ran, fell upon his knees, seized her hand, and embraced it with such eagerness, as was sufficiently expressive of the ardour of his

his love; while the tender nymph was unable to refuse an acknowledgement that her heart, which had hitherto been invulnerable, was at last overwhelmed with affection, and subdued. After pouring forth the soft effusions of their hearts, they began to think of the ways and means to put a finishing hand to their happiness.

Hobart proposed to take and furnish a genteel house, and to conceal every circumstance from her brother 'till the ceremony was performed. The lady at first objected to this mode, because it had somewhat of a clandestine appearance, and might injure her reputation, but finally suffered herself to be reasoned into an acquiescence.

Hobart now saw the necessity of departing from his original plan, since fortune had thrown something in his way which promised to be immediately productive,

ductive, and was much easier in it's execution. He considered the possession of Miss Ortwood, as a most desirable object, but the hazard of failing in the attempt, and the still greater difficulty to possess himself of her property, induced him to alter his arrangement.

Having been from home the greatest part of three days under pretence of taking a house, he informed his fair intended, that he had succeeded, and had purchased furniture to the amount of more than two hundred and fifty pounds, but hinted that he should be under some embarrassment in consequence, if he had not a remittance from his father in a few days. The dear lady wishing to relieve him from any unnecessary difficulty on that account, instantly took from her pocket-book three bank notes of a hundred pounds each, saying, should it be wanted, she could accommodate him with a further sum by a note on

on her banker. Hobart refused to accept of the notes at first, and pretended to be much hurt at being reduced to so disagreeable a necessity, but suffered himself finally to be prevailed on by the soft intreaties of his fair mistress.

Having possessed himself of this property he resolved to carry off Miss Orwood if possible, and to leave the event to fortune. The very next day he had a fair prospect of coming to an explanation with that young lady; for she being confined by a slight indisposition, early the next morning, the weather being favourable, he proposed a promenade to the rest of the family, intending to give them the slip, and return home to bring the matter to as speedy an issue as possible, well aware that things were coming to such a crisis, that in a few days, he must either depart alone, or accompanied by the object of his wishes.

Having conducted his party into St. James's Park, he found means to lose them in the crowd, and made the best of his way towards his lodgings. But how great was his surprize, when he came in sight of the house, to see two or three of the Bow Street officers, with whose persons he was well acquainted, standing at the door, apparently waiting for some of their companions within. Being at some distance however, he happened to escape their notice, and instantly made a precipitate retreat. All his cash, together with the bills he had received the preceding day being in his pocket, he regarded not the few articles left in his lodgings, and resolved now to quit London with all possible dispatch.

CHAP. XIX.

He visits Newmarket, adopts the title of Duke of Ormond, and is taken into custody.

HAVING purchased a pair of fine horses, he now set off, accompanied by a livery servant, and visited Northampton, Warwick, Birmingham, and Leicester; at the latter place he deposited a sum of money in the hands of some bankers, and took upon himself the name of Capt. Blundell. It was then he first saw Miss Sp——r, and was smitten with her charms.

About the latter end of May he went to Buxton, where, by his polite conduct, he procured the esteem and respect of a principal part of the company. Here he paid particular attention to a pretty female quaker, whose character had been

G 5 a little

a little tarnished by scandal. This act of kindness was done in order to rescue her from the malignancy of slander, and procured him the favour of a very respectable Birmingham gentleman, of that persuasion, who happened to be then at Buxton.

Attracted by the all-powerful charms of beauty, he soon returned to Leicester, and there indulged himself for some time, in the company of his mistress. After this he visited Birmingham, and was known to many people in that town by the name of Henry Griffin. He continued in that neighbourhood during and after the dreadful riots at that place, in July, 1791, when he again went to Leicester.

In October following he attended the first meeting at Newmarket, and then appeared in very high style, associating with

with gentlemen of the first rank, and was attended by two servants in livery. On Friday the seventeenth, he ran a chestnut filly, which he called after the name of his mistress, Ally Spooner, against Mr. Sykes's grey colt, by Justice, for seventy guineas, as appears by the Newmarket calendar for 1791. He had the misfortune to lose this bet, which reduced him to the necessity of making a desperate effort to recover himself.

He first prepared a bill for 200l. as though it had been issued by a principal house in London, made payable to the Duke of Ormond; with this he went to the house of Mr. Hammond, a banker at Newmarket, to get it discounted. On entering the house, he presented the bill to Mr. Hammond himself, who looked at it, and then said with great reverence, "Sir, this bill is made payable to the Duke of Ormond." Hobart turned

G 6 himself

himself round with an air of dignity, and said, "I am the Duke of Ormond." The banker then, with the most profound respect, asked his grace's pardon, and began to look out the cash. In the mean time Hobart, with an aspect of perfect indifference, was viewing some pictures in the room. Mr. Hammond presently informed his grace he was ready, and then gave him twenty pounds in cash, deducting only twelve and six-pence interest, and the rest in his own notes.

Instantly after his departure, the banker observed he had left some silver on the counter, and knocked at the window as he passed, to call him back. This circumstance might have betrayed symptoms sufficient to detect a man of less fortitude than Hobart; but he, with all the ease and composure possible, came back, asked what was the matter, took the silver, and departed, without shewing

ing the smallest trepidation. The banker, notwithstanding, began to entertain some doubts, and instantly followed him.

He saw him as soon as he got out of his house, and, as he has since said, was several times inclined to call out "stop him," for he could not walk fast enough to overtake him; but seeing him stay a few seconds at the Duke of Queensbury's door, his suspicions vanished.

On observing him enter an inn, he again resolved to speak to him, if possible; but when he came up his grace was not to be found in the house. Mr. Hammond then supposed he might be gone into the garden, and waited a considerable time. As he did not return, the banker's suspicions increased violently, and, at his request, the garden, house, and stables were searched, but all in vain; he now soon discovered the imposition, and pursued him several hundred

hundred miles, but Hobart found means to elude all his efforts.

The bills were all negotiated, and one of them soon reached Mr. Hammond, indorsed in the name of Henry Griffin. He was now advertised by that name, and a small cicatrice, which had been remarked in the upper part of his forehead, was mentioned in the description.*

Hobart, in a short time, found his way again to Leicester, and there staid about a fortnight. In that time he paid his addresses to his mistress with such success, that she at last consented to elope with him; and on Saturday, the twentieth of October, the fugitives reached the Hotel, in Birmingham.

Again

* This scar, the reader will remember, was from a wound he received in the conflict with Capt. Williams, at Princeton, as related in the first volume.

Again was Hobart in a fair way of being relieved from the anguish of love, by the soft caresses of the fair object who had given it birth. Conceiving, however, the noise and bustle of Birmingham unfavourable to that repose which they desired, on the Monday following they removed to Vauxhall, about a mile from the town, where he assumed the name of Capt. Monson, of the Dragoons, and introduced the lady as his sister.

The Captain reported, that he had had the misfortune to have a trunk cut from behind his carriage, containing a quantity of his and his sister's clothes, and therefore, on Tuesday, sent for a taylor, and ordered a suit of mourning to be made with all possible dispatch. The lady, on the same day, made several purchases in Birmingham, for her own accommodation, and was attended by a servant in livery.

On

On the following day the father of the young lady, accompanied by two friends, reached Birmingham in pursuit of his daughter, and, by application at the Hotel, soon discovered the place of their retreat. The father now, attended by one of his companions, who had paid his addresses to the damsel for some time before she eloped, went to Vauxhall.

In the mean time, the other called on an assistant to the Birmingham constables, acquainted him with the particulars of their business, and informed him that this person was strongly suspected to be Henry Griffin, the Newmarket Duke of Ormond.

Mr. Wallis, a constable of Birmingham, was now applied to, who requested his son to attend him, as he was acquainted with the person of Griffin. Before they arrived, Mr. Sp---r had seen Hobart, and had demanded his daughter ;

daughter; she was called into the room, and, in the presence of her father, and the young man who had paid his addresses to her, Hobart asked her whether she was willing to return with them, or to stay with him; she instantly chose the latter; "then (said Hobart) by G—d "I'll protect you," and placed a pair of pistols on the table. Mr. Sp——r and his companion then withdrew, leaving Hobart to himself, and the lady went to her own room.

Immediately after this, Mr. Wallis and his assistants arrived, when Mr. Sp——r shewed them Hobart's apartment. Having been previously informed he was armed, Mr. Wallis, junior, took a pistol in his hand, which he concealed behind him. The door being now opened, he entered, and saw Hobart standing at the opposite side of the room, with a pistol in his hand, and another lying

lying on a table before him. Mr. Wallis instantly knew him, and had scarcely pronounced the words, "Ah! Griffin! is it you?" before Hobart discharged the pistol, and the ball unfortunately struck Mr. Wallis in the mouth. Mr. Wallis, senior, now entered, when he attempted to discharge the other pistol at him; but a scuffle ensued, in which Mr. Wallis wrested the pistol from him, and threw him on the floor. The assistant then came in, and laid about him with a large bludgeon so effectually, that he was soon reduced to order, and secured.

A surgeon presently arrived, and it appeared, on examining the blood on the floor, that Mr. Wallis had emitted the ball, but that some of his teeth were broken, and his tongue very dangerously wounded. It was also afterwards discovered, that the broken pieces of his teeth had been driven into the back part of

of his throat, with great force. This made his recovery painful and tedious. Hobart had also a considerable contusion on his forehead, and was otherwise very severely bruised.

During the conflict Miss Sp——r came into the room, and seeing her lover lie bleeding on the floor, she ran to him, bewailed him in the most piteous manner, and was, with difficulty, torn from him, by her father.

Mr. Wallis was now taken home in a coach, attended by his surgeon, Hobart securely lodged in the Birmingham prison, and, the following morning, Mr. Sp——r returned to Leicester with his daughter.

There happened to be a Henry Griffin, of Hagley, about ten miles from Birmingham, a taylor by trade, whose conduct

conduct had been a little irregular, and it was generally believed that this was the same Henry Griffin; Hobart, notwithstanding his unhappy condition, felt himself much injured by this report, and took every means in his power to rectify the mistake; for, degraded as he was, he still considered himself by no means reduced to the level of a taylor.

A few days after he had been in custody, the Birmingham gaoler had some suspicion that the turnkeys had been bribed, and accordingly desired to see what money he possessed. Observing two guineas deficient of the sum found upon him when taken, he insisted upon knowing to what purpose this money had been appropriated. Hobart pretended much surprize at so extraordinary scrutiny, saying it was hard a man could not exercise his generosity towards men who had been greatly troubled on
his

his account, without being suspected. This money, however, was instantly ordered to be refunded, and though, after this, every proper indulgence was allowed him, the gaoler kept all the cash in his own possession 'till he was removed to Warwick.

The concourse of people who went to the prison to see this extraordinary man was astonishing; it was at last ordered that none should be admitted but those who produced tickets from the peace-officers; after which, during his stay at Birmingham, the constables' levees were nearly as numerous as those at St. James's. He often lamented having shot Mr. Wallis, and declared that the misfortune was owing to the sudden impulse of the moment. The clothes he had ordered were brought to him in the prison, which he paid for very honourably; and also discharged a small debt

debt which he had contracted at an inn in Birmingham, some months before. He had good medical assistance, was attended in the prison by his own servant in livery, and soon recovered his health and tranquillity. He generally appeared very chearful, conversed with foreigners in French, and was very communicative. Many ladies went to see him, to whom he conducted himself with the greatest politeness, in return for which they all declared him a monstrous pretty man.

On reading, in a London paper, an account of his being taken into custody, he seemed much concerned to find it erroneously stated that Miss B——, of Leicesler, was the lady who had eloped with him, and took great pains to procure a contradiction of that report. “ I know
 “ Mr. B—— (said he) very well, and
 “ am extremely sorry that, by mistake,
 “ his family should have been implicated
 “ in

" in my misfortunes. Let the public
 " speak of me as they find me—Some,
 " perhaps, will necessarily be subject to
 " scandal on my account, but nothing
 " would give me greater uneasiness than
 " to find that any should be injured in
 " their reputation who are entire
 " strangers to every transaction respect-
 " ing my troubles."

Notice of his being in custody having
 been sent to Newmarket, Mr. Hammond,
 the banker, arrived in Birmingham on
 the 11th of November; Hobart was then
 ordered to be dressed in the clothes found
 in his box, which had been described in
 the advertisement, and, thus equipped,
 was introduced to Mr. Hammond, accom-
 panied by two magistrates, at the prison.

The banker, after viewing him atten-
 tively for some time, pronounced him to
 be the man, and then said, " two hun-
 dred

"dred pounds was too much, Sir, you
"should have had some mercy; do you
"know that I have pursued you near
"five hundred miles?" "It would be
"very strange if I did," replied Hobart.

After Mr. Hammond had made his deposition, and retired, he shewed great marks of concern, and said he had not been treated well, in being obliged to put on clothes which resembled those described in the advertisement; he, however, after some time, recovered himself, and, in the course of the evening, seemed to have forgot his situation.

A few days after, he was visited by Jealous, a Bow-Street runner, who was well acquainted with his person, nor did Hobart decline acknowledging him. Their interview was, however, entirely private, nor did any thing transpire which passed between them.

Mr.

Mr. Green now came from London, to see if he could recognize, in the Duke of Ormond, his old friend Lord Massey. The magistrates also attended at this interview, and Mr. Green's deposition was taken, who said he believed him to be the person; but Hobart seemed to regard this charge with a total indifference.

He was kept in Birmingham prison till the 29th, under the daily expectation that Mr. Wallis, jun. would be able to attend the public office during his examination; but he being not sufficiently recovered, the magistrates took his deposition at his own house, and the same morning Hobart was taken to the public office Birmingham.

His irons having been previously taken off, he was led in before the magistrates, who, from his genteel demeanour,

Vol. II.

H

nour,

nour, could do no less than invite him within the railing, and ask him to be seated; but he chose rather to stand, and, during the examination, made several pertinent remarks. The depositions of the other parties being taken, his mittimus was delivered to one of the Birmingham constables, who, attended by four others sworn for that purpose, conducted him the same day, in a post coach and four, to Warwick Gaol.

He appeared full of vivacity on the road, and whilst taking some refreshment at Knowle, the constable jocularly said to one of his assistants, "Go back "to Birmingham, B—ce, and tell the "folks that the Duke has been rescued."
—"Monstrous good! (added Hobart),
"and take the constable's wig, as a
"proof that he has been murdered in
"the conflict!"

Whilst

Whilst in confinement at Birmingham, he found means to excite so great a degree of confidence in the gaoler, that on his removal to Warwick, he voluntarily gave him credit for about five pounds, lest, before his trial, he should labour under any pecuniary difficulty, fully persuaded there was not the least danger of losing his money.

On his arrival at Warwick, the gaoler of that prison, who had visited him in Birmingham, and, with some others, had spent two or three evenings with him during his confinement, received him with much civility, and on conducting him to the apartment intended for him, said, in presence of the Birmingham officers, "Mr. Griffin, this room I propose to appropriate to your accommodation, and, while you conduct yourself with propriety, I shall indulge you with every comfort the nature of your

" confine-

"confinement will admit of, but by
"G—d, sir, you must not slip through
"my fingers. Here, sir, (continued he, taking a light fetter from a number of various sizes, which hung round the room) "this small iron on one leg is all
"I shall incumber you with, the turn-
"key will also sleep in this apartment,
"and, though the other prisoners are all
"locked up at six in the evening, you
"will be indulged till nine."

Having been disengaged from the heavy double irons in which he had been brought from Birmingham, he was now requested to put his foot into a block contrived for that purpose, and one by far more commodious was rivetted on, when having taken a receipt for his body, the Birmingham constables left him to the care of his hospitable guardian.

Two servants attended him at Warwick; one wore a livery, and the other appeared in the character of a valet: they were both accommodated at a tavern. In a few days he got his apartment furnished in a very genteel style, having purchased a carpet, tables, chairs, and many other convenient articles. He also ordered in a stock of porter, wines, &c. and, having procured a collection of printed music, he amused himself much in playing on the guitar. When he had been about three weeks in Warwick prison, he wrote the following letter to a person in Birmingham, who had sent him a small pamphlet.

“ My dear Sir,

“ I HAVE this instant had
 “ your's handed to me. It cannot be
 “ necessary to remark how extremely
 “ sensible I am of your attention. I
 “ could wish for the continuance of a

H.3 “ correspon-

"correspondence from which I promise
 "myself much happiness.—I hope, and
 "trust, that the good people of Birmingham
 "have, ere this, found a subject for
 "their extraordinary talents in the room
 "of your friend, whom you emphatically
 "and democratically term the *ci-devant*
 "Duke.

"My present situation is much more
 "pleasant than when at Birmingham—
 "only, that I feel the loss of society,
 "which is certainly the grandest consideration
 "in life.

"I am your's, faithfully,

"H. GRIFFIN."

At the time he wrote the above, he
 shewed a letter to a gentleman who
 called to see him, signed Bathurst, which
 had on it the London post-mark, and its
 contents were nearly as follows.

"Sir,

"Sir,

"When I read in the news-papers
 "some accounts of an adventurer in the
 "character of the Duke of Ormond, I
 "had some reason to think you was the
 "person; to your excesses I was no
 "stranger, but hardly believed you
 "would have reduced yourself to so
 "dreadful a predicament. It is impos-
 "sible now to avert the effects of the
 "law; should, however, any favourable
 "circumstance occur in the course of
 "your trial, it might perhaps, be possi-
 "ble to save your life."

However plausible the above letter,
 and the circumstances attending it might
 appear, there is great reason to believe
 it was a forgery, and that his own asser-
 tion respecting his being allied to the
 noble earl by marriage, on his mother's
 side, is untrue.

H 4

On

On the 24th of December, 1791, the turnkey, on entering the apartment where Hobart was confined with two others, discovered that an attempt had been made to force the lock of a long chain, which secured the three together.

A strict scrutiny now took place; every article he possessed was carefully examined, and, amongst other things, a fifty pound bank note was discovered. This the gaoler prudently retained, saying he was at liberty, when he pleased, to appropriate the money to any laudable purpose; but that a bank note of that value, he feared, was capable of unlocking every door in the prison. In a small wooden box was found the movement of his watch, but, upon inspection, it appeared that the main spring was wanting. This caused much perplexity. Hobart, and the two others secured by the same chain,

chain, were separately examined, but to no purpose.

It was now thought necessary to lodge them in different parts of the prison, and to well secure them; for while they were suspected to have concealed somewhere this dangerous instrument, the gaoler thought proper to use every precaution. At last, however, the watch spring was found concealed in the great coat collar of one of those, supposed to be an accomplice with Hobart in the plot; and, upon examination, it was found to have been ingeniously converted into a kind of saw, by means, as it was thought, of a small pair of scissors.

It was the opinion of the gaoler, that had they succeeded in disengaging themselves from the long chain, it would have been impossible to have effected an escape; but Hobart was possessed of

H 5 a pene-

a penetration too keen to hazard the loss of the indulgence he enjoyed, by attempting simply to liberate himself from that situation, had it not been a part of a premeditated, and, to him, a probable plan of obtaining his enlargement.

A short time after this ineffectual effort, some gentlemen called to see him, and found him loaded with heavier fetters, but not deprived of all the comforts he had before enjoyed; on speaking of the long chain, by which several were secured during the night, "Ah (said Hobart) "in this place you see we are "firmly attached to each other by the "strong band of adversity."

The gaoler being a man of great humanity, soon relaxed in the severity of his discipline, and Hobart was again, by degrees, indulged as usual. He now for
some

some months lived in a style of affluence, and curiosity induced many genteel people to visit him in prison.

His trial was expected to have come on at the Warwick Spring Assizes following, but so slow was the progress of Mr. Wallis's recovery, and so severe his sufferings, whilst nature was labouring to disengage herself from the broken teeth, which were lodged in his throat, that he was not able to attend, and it was put off 'till the Summer Assizes.

About the end of May, whilst he yet kept up an elegant deportment, he was greatly reduced, as will be seen by the following letter, addressed to a gentleman from whom he expected some pecuniary assistance.

H 6

“ WARWICK,

" WARWICK, June 1st, 1792.

" BELIEVE me, dear Sir, nothing
" but the most pressing necessity imagi-
" nable, added to the high opinion I
" have invariably entertained of your
" disposition, could have induced me to
" apply to you upon a subject so painful
" to my feelings: my finances are now
" scanty in the extreme. The delicate
" turn of your mind will readily antici-
" pate the mortifying scenes which I
" must encounter, under the compli-
" cated calamities of confinement and
" poverty. I declare to you, Sir, that
" I would, even under these oppressive
" circumstances, cheerfully bear the
" severest strokes of penury, rather than
" be diffuse in my solicitations; but to
" your generous interposition with my
" friends, I shall not blush to be obliged.

" Your's most truly,

" HENRY GRIFFIN."

During

During his long imprisonment, he had several sums of money sent him from different quarters; and though fettered and immured so effectually, he still was so happy as to be blessed with the soft solaces of the fair.

He takes his trial at Warwick.

HIS trial commenced on Tuesday morning, the 21st of August, before the Hon: Sir W. H. Ashurst. The Hall was prodigiously crowded at a very early hour; and never, perhaps, on any former occasion, was there in that court so numerous an assemblage of the fair sex.

About seven o'clock in the morning the prisoner entered the court, very genteelly dressed, and was conducted to the bar during the most profound silence. On being arraigned, his perilous situation excited the pity of the numerous spectators; and the display of the handkerchiefs in the gallery, sufficiently discovered the sensibility of many of the ladies.

The

The indictment was now read, which was to the following effect.

“ Henry Griffin, otherwise George Hubbard, the prisoner at the bar, stands indicted for, that he, with a certain offensive weapon, called a pistol, then and there charged with gun-powder and a leaden bullet, wilfully and maliciously shot at and wounded John Wallis the younger, on the 2d of November, 1791, against the statute,” &c.

The first jury were all objected to by the prisoner's counsel, as being inhabitants of Birmingham; and one person among the second for the same reason; his place being supplied, the trial commenced.

Mr. Balguy, counsel for the prosecution, opened the case, and took a large and

and comprehensive view of the whole transaction, animadverting on each incident with much legal skill, and then called

John Wallis the younger.

Question.—Was you sent for in November last?

Answer.—Yes, I was; on the 2d of November.

2. Pray what is your father?—A constable.

2. Pray, Sir, are you an officer?—No; I am not.

2. Was you sent for at that time?—Yes; I was sent for by my father; and I saw a gentleman in a hackney-coach.

2. Where did you go to?—To Vauxhall, about one mile from Birmingham. My father told me, as we went, it was to see a person who was thought to be the Duke of Ormond.

[The

[The news-paper was produced in court, containing the advertisement offering a reward for apprehending the pretended Duke of Ormond.]

Q. Pray in what parish does your father reside?—Birmingham.

Q. When you went to Vauxhall, who was with you?—My father, and one Bruce.

Q. Pray did you ever see the advertisement that was in the paper now produced?—I certainly did.

Q. When you got to Vauxhall, what did you do?—We met at Vauxhall, Mr. Spooner, and he took us up stairs to shew us the room where Griffin was. On my way up stairs, somebody put a pistol into my hand, but I do not know who it was. When I went to the door, I put the pistol behind me. When we came up, the door was open, and we went into the room; I met the prisoner at the door, and said, 'Ha! Griffin!' and kept

kept my pistol in the same place where it was when I went in.

2. Were your father and Bruce there?—Close following me.

2. Did you know the prisoner before?—I did; and he said, 'Wallis, how do you do?'

2. What did he do, or say, then?—He turned from me, drew a pistol, and presented it to me.

2. How far was he from you?—A few paces.

2. What did you say then?—'Good God! you surely do not mean to fire;' and before I had done speaking, I received the contents of the pistol in my mouth:

2. Where was your pistol at that time?—Under my coat.

2. Did any thing pass before firing?—Nothing.

2. What did the prisoner do then?—I lost my recollection; but when I recovered, I saw my father and him struggling,

struggling, I took a pistol off the table, and struck him on the forehead, which brought him on his knees; and he was then secured.

Q. You say you struck him with a pistol; where was yours?—I lost it when I was wounded.

Q. Who secured him?—My Father, Bruce, and myself.

Cross-examined by Mr. Clarke.

Q. What time of the day was this?—About one or two o'clock.

Q. Did not Spooner go after his daughter?—I do not know.

Q. Did one King say that Spooner was there?—I do not know.

Q. Did you know afterwards?—I have heard so, but I do not know.

Q. Pray who spoke first on the stairs?—Spooner said, 'that is the door.'

Q. You are quite sure he did not say, 'that is the man?'—Yes,—I am.

Q. When

2. When you went in, you said, ha, Griffin?—I did.

2. You said you was going to speak when the shot hit you?—I had spoke some words when I received the shot.

2. Do not you believe that the prisoner was in such a situation that he could see Bruce and your father?—I suppose he was.

2. The blow you gave him was so violent as to knock him down?—Yes, it brought him on his knees.

2. Had you, or any of you, a warrant?—No, I believe not.

2. Did you understand from King what he went to Vauxhall for?—No.

John Wallis the elder, examined.

2. I believe you are a constable at Birmingham?—I am.

2. Was you applied to in November last, by one Bruce?—Yes, on Wednesday the second.

2. Was

2. Was any body with him?—Willoughby King.

2. What did they apply to you for?—To go with them to Vauxhall, to secure the daughter of Spooner, who had eloped from Leicester with the man who was supposed to be the Duke of Ormond.

2. Did you send for any body?—Yes, I sent for my son, and he came; when King and myself went on with a coach to Bruce's house, and then we went to Vauxhall.

2. What did you do when you got there?—When we went into the house, somebody put a pistol into my son's hand, and we went up stairs; Spooner went first, and we followed him; on our arrival, he pushed the door open, and said, there he is.

2. In what situation was the door?—A little way opened.

2. When the door was open, was the prisoner to be seen?—Yes.

2. Who

2. Who went in first?—Spoonier went in first, and my son passed him, holding his pistol under his coat. My son said, 'ha! Griffin, is it you?'

2. Did he make any answer?—He said, 'Mr. Wallis, how do you do!' and almost immediately presented his pistol.

2. Did you see the pistol plainly, before the prisoner presented it?—I did.

2. Did he see you?—He could not avoid seeing me.

2. How did he hold the pistol?—He held the pistol up; and my son said, 'for God's sake, you do not mean to fire?'

Before the words were spoke, I heard the report, and he was shot, and the blood ran out of his mouth. I then ran up to the prisoner, and he levelled a pistol at my head. I got close to him, and he had the pistol close to my side. I knocked the pistol off with one hand, and took him by the hair with the other; my son then came up, and hit him over the

the head; then Bruce came, and we secured him.

Cross-examined by Mr. Willis.

Q. Did not you go out to the coach?
—Yes; I did.

Q. Did not King and Spooner come to secure Spooner's daughter?—I believe they did.

Q. You went to Vauxhall to secure Spooner's daughter?—I did.

Q. You and your son went without a warrant?—We did.

Q. Pray now describe the situation the door was in?—It was about two inches open; Spooner went first, and my son passed him.

Q. Was the first word spoken by Spooner?—Yes; it was.

Q. Spooner is the father of the girl whom Griffin had taken away?—Yes; he is.

Q. I take

2. I take it you was alarmed?—I was, indeed, very much.

2. I suppose your eyes were fixed on Griffin?—They were; but it was a very sudden business.

2. What was your intention for going there?—To take the pretended Duke of Ormond.

John Bruce examined.

2. You went with Willoughby King?—I went after the lady who had eloped with the pretended Duke of Ormond.

2. Where did you go to?—Mr. Wallis came in a coach; we called on young Mr. Wallis, and all went to Vauxhall.

2. Who was there besides?—Spooner, and one Freer.

2. What did you do when you got to the house?—Somebody said, I will
shew

shew you the room where the gentleman is.

Q. Did you see any pistol produced?—I saw one put into Wallis's hand, and one into mine; Mr. Spooner went first, shewed them the room, and opened the door.

Q. In what situation was the door?—It was not shut.

Q. How far was you from them?—We all got to the landing-place together, when Spooner opened the door, and said, 'that is the gentleman.'

Q. How far did Spooner go into the room?—About a quarter of a yard; and Wallis said, 'Ha! Griffin, how do you do?' Griffin said, 'How do you do?' At that moment I heard the report of the pistol.

Q. Did you know how Wallis carried his pistol?—Under his coat.

Q. You had a pistol likewise; how did you carry it?—Yes, I had; and carried it in my right-hand coat pocket.

Q. What did you do then?—I went to the prisoner, who had presented a pistol at Wallis.

Q. Did he fire?—Yes; and Wallis put his hand directly to his mouth.

Q. Then what did you do?—Assisted in securing the prisoner.

Cross-examined by Mr. Clarke.

Q. Had you any warrant?—I had not.

Q. For what purpose did King come to you?—King came to me to go to Vauxhall to take away Spooner's daughter, who had eloped.

Q. Was King an admirer of Miss Spooner?—I cannot tell that.

Q. Did you all go?—Yes; one after the other.

Q. Now

Q. Now tell me how many inches the door was open?—About two inches.

Q. You say Spooner opened the door?—Yes.

Q. Did you not swear before the justice that you said, 'that is the man?'—I cannot tell.

Q. Was what you swore before the justice the truth?—Yes; it was.

Q. Did you see the prisoner before he fired?—No.

Q. You never swore you saw him before he fired?—No; I did not.

Q. Did you, or did you not, see the pistol presented at young Wallis?—I always spoke as I do now, that was, that I saw the pistol presented at old Wallis.

Q. What did you do after you had taken Griffin; did not you almost kill him?—I do not know, but he seems alive now.

Q. How long was you beating him?

—The whole did not take up much more than a minute.

I 2

Q. Did

2. Did you not say the door was shut?—No; never.

Willoughby King examined.

2. Did you go to Mr. Wallis with Bruce?—I told him there was a person at Vauxhall who had run away with Spooner's daughter, whose person, by the description, answered to that of the pretended Duke of Ormond, and desired him to go and take him.

2. Did you go?—Yes; I went with Bruce and Wallis, junior.

2. Tell us what happened on your arrival?—Spooner went up stairs first with young Wallis, then Bruce and old Wallis, and then Freer and myself.

2. Did you not go in?—I did.

2. Do you know any thing about the door?—I cannot say.

2. Did you hear any words spoken?
—I did not.

2. Did

Q. Did you see the prisoner before he fired?—I did not.

Q. Did you not come from Leicester to take the lady back?—Undoubtedly I did.

Cross-examination.

Q. Did you bring or buy pistols on the road?—I bought a brace.

Q. What did you buy the pistols for?—My own safety.

Q. Did you or Spooner make any attempt to take Miss Spooner away?—I believe Mr. Spooner did.

Q. Did you apply to Wallis to assist you?—I applied first to Bruce.

Q. Did you not go a second time to Vauxhall?—Her father did, and I went with him to assist.

Q. Was not you in a room in Vauxhall with Freer, Spooner, and Griffin?—

I 3

No,

No, I was not; but Freer and Spooner had some conversation.

2. Do you mean to say that Spooner never said to Griffin, 'Damn you, we have pistols as well as you?'—I do not.

2. If Miss Spooner had been given up, should you have applied to Wallis?—I cannot say.

Richard Wooldridge.

2. Did you see the prisoner when he was in custody?—Yes.

2. When was it, and how long after he was in custody, that you heard him speak some words?—About four or five days.

2. What did he say?—'Blast my bloody pistols! how could they deceive me? if they had not, I should have shot Bruce, because I had such good aim at him.'

The

The Honourable Judge now informed the prisoner, that if he wished to say any thing in his defence, he was ready to attend him. Hobart then said,

“ My Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury,

“ It is with extremeregret that I find myself constrained to solicit your attention, while I represent to you the state of the transaction which I am now called upon so seriously to answer, and remark upon the evidence adduced to support the charge made against me.

“ I feel it peculiarly unfortunate in being obliged to add to the load of miseries I now sustain, in being placed at this bar to answer this charge. Circumstanced as I now am, standing under the strongest prejudice of public opinion,

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oppressed by calumnies in every newspaper, and almost convicted by the popular cry before I have even heard the charge imputed to me, or have had it in my power to say a syllable in my defence, I can only rely upon the judgment, the honour, and integrity of the learned judge, before whom I am trying, and implore a fair, candid, and dispassionate hearing of the Jury, who are to determine upon my case.

“ I can only be anticipating the observations which will be made much more favourable for me by the learned Judge, when I earnestly request of you, gentlemen of the jury, to try this cause upon the evidence adduced before you, and totally to lay out of your consideration every thing you have heard before you came into this court.

“ Your

"Your minds being impressed only by the effects of the evidence brought forward this day, I feel the most perfect confidence in receiving a verdict acquitting me entirely of the black crime of malice, on which alone the present indictment can be supported.

"That I have been guilty of an act of intemperance in shooting at Mr. Wallis—I confess, and confess it with all that remorse and penitence which a man in my situation ought to feel; and if a punishment be wished for that offence, the feelings of my own mind since the commission of the fatal act, have inflicted upon me punishments which, were they known to the public, would gratify the most vindictive. But that that act has been committed solely for the preservation and protection of a woman dearest to my heart, and under the strongest impressions that my own life was endangered,

ed, I trust and feel assured all who shall hear the case will be perfectly satisfied.

“ I will now take the liberty of giving to your lordship, and the jury, a fair and impartial history of myself, as applied to this unfortunate transaction, and request your attention to such observations as have occurred to me upon the evidence produced against me.

“ On the second of November my servant came into the room, the scene of this lamentable affair, and informed me that Dadley of Birmingham, and three other persons, had arrived in a coach—from their manner and conversation he was induced to believe that they were in pursuit of the lady who was then under my protection. I desired him to describe the persons of them, and from his description I judged the father of the lady to be of the party: I withdrew

drew immediately to an adjoining room in order to adjust myself for an interview, which I imagined he would of course demand: in a few minutes Miss Spooner came to the door, and informed me that she had received a note from a relation who was below, and who requested an interview — this I opposed, as he was an entire stranger to me, and observed, that if Mr. Spooner was below, and wished to see his daughter, he was at liberty so to do—he accordingly came up stairs, and I addressed him thus — “Mr.

“ Spooner, I presume you are in pursuit of your daughter;” he replied that he was, and certainly should take her home. I answered that if the lady were inclined to return to Leicester, I would not oppose it; this, however, she positively refused to do, and intreated of me to protect her from the fury of her father’s resentment, who in a paroxysm of passion, aided by intoxication, would,

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it

it was more than probable to suppose, have used her extremely ill. I promised to protect her faithfully, but, being firmly persuaded that mild and conciliatory measures should be adopted, in preference to those which are rigid and provoking, I left my room, and went down stairs, where I found Mr. Spooner and his companions drinking of hot wine; I calmly remonstrated on the impropriety of forcing the young lady to return to Leicester, after the decided preference she had given to remain with me.—Pistols were produced, much scurrilous language made use of, and threats sufficient to have aroused the indignation of a man less liable than myself to obey the impulse of wounded feelings: perceiving that every effort to appease their anger would be ineffectual, I returned to my room, nearly overpowered with the most painful sensations. On the one hand, I beheld an amiable and much-loved

loved woman, with the sweet simplicity of uncontaminated innocence, looking up to me as the guardian of her person and honour—a sacred charge! On the other hand, I beheld an enraged father, and disappointed lover, heated with wine, threatening me with destruction should I shield from the violence of their rage this the first and fondest object of my wishes.

“At the critical moment of contemplating these jarring principles, my door was forced open, and a person, whom at that instant I had no recollection of, entered my room with a cocked pistol in his hand. This you will readily conceive to have been an arduous situation; a situation so singular, so provoking on the part of Mr. Wallis, could not fail to be productive of very inauspicious effects, whether you consider me to have been under the impulse of self-preservation,

vation, or moved by a temporary delirium—I will venture to assert, that never was so unwarrantable, so unjust an attack, and under circumstances so irresistibly calculated to excite the utmost degree of exasperation: by virtue of what right, or under what pretext, was I so unjustly irritated? Wallis was not a peace-officer of any description, nor can his evident incompetence to commit such an infraction be removed by the concurrence of his father, who was constable only for the parish of Birmingham; the moment, therefore, that he exceeded the boundary of that parish, his functions instantly terminated, and were incapable of the slightest exertion: but the pretext, or the excuse for this act of oppression is, that society was likely to be served—Gracious heaven! shall the pretence of doing an uncertain good, hurry men on to the commission of indubitable evil? Will any man dare to affirm that society can

can be served by the overthrow of the principles which are its support? Can what is unjust be useful? Can it even be salutary? Abstracted from all regard to myself, I have been struck with the enormity of such an attack, and, with the utmost deference, submit it to have been at once usurpation, injustice, and inhumanity, a flagrant violation of the law, and a most daring invasion of the liberty of the subject.

“ I shall not enlarge further on truths so manifest, but come to the charge which is principally relied on, that of having maliciously shot at John Wallis; and nothing more is necessary but to ascertain the sense of the word malicious. This may have two different acceptations: according to the most extensive, it signifies a cool, deliberate, and premeditated determination to do a particular person an essential injury, an injury of the most destructive,

destructive tendency, equal, perhaps, to the deprivation of existence; in the more confined acceptation, it implies being ill-disposed to another, rejoicing at her or his misfortunes, whether natural or adventitious: it is certainly not under either point of view that it can be applied to me; there is not the slightest shadow of reason for such a charge—I have never had any dealings with Mr. Wallis, nor do I recollect having ever exchanged a word with him, it would therefore be absurd, nay, it would be judging basely of human nature, to suppose that I could have any malignity against that man, who, to my knowledge at least, had never done me an injury. By this very simple, and in my humble apprehension, very clear explanation, every idea of malice must vanish:—It is unpleasant, and would be uninteresting to this court, for me to enumerate any good qualities I may possess, but this I think

think I may, without incurring any imputation of vanity, and without disgusting the feelings of any one, say, that malice never was one of the component parts of my mind.—It can scarcely be necessary to remark upon the evidence of Bruce; a grosser violation of truth, and greater inconsistency, never escaped the lips of man.—The evidence of Wallis the elder, and Wallis the younger, are also contradictory. The father deposes that Spooner went into the room first; the son declares that the first words spoken in the room were by himself, ‘Ah, Griffin, is it you?’ Old Wallis positively swore that Spooner spoke the first words, ‘There he is.’—Whether the testimony of such persons is entitled to credibility, when the life of a fellow-creature is to be disposed of, I shall not take upon me to determine, but the doubt is certainly reasonable, and requires a very deliberate and solemn decision. Much has been
said

said of the sufferings of Mr. Wallis.—I also have sufferings to calculate, but it was not my wish to advert to any personal calculations, having found a sufficient indemnification, a full compensation, in the re-establishment of the health of that gentleman :—In this sentiment, I assure you, I express the genuine feelings of my heart.—I make all possible allowance for prejudices, for the heat and animosity of the prosecutors, and know how to pardon even their injustice ; but since the despicable devices of malignity and falsehood are urged against me, it is but fair that I should be at liberty to repel their force, and I trust I shall be able to make appeal, in the fullest and most unequivocal manner, that my sufferings have been infinitely more acute than those so loudly complained of by Wallis, and that the conduct of his father towards me was marked with the most savage and unfeeling barbarity—

barity—when the combat had ceased, and while I lay insensible on the floor, my hands chained, and every chance of resistance effectually removed, he continued to beat and kick me in a manner the most disgraceful to humanity; he also suffered two men,—men,—pardon me, I prostitute the term of manhood, when I apply it to such a caitiff as Bruce, or such a miscreant as the other—These very humble apologies for men, with that brutal ferocity ever conjoint with cowardice, beat and kicked me even after the master of Vauxhall had pronounced me dead! — But their ferocious and abhorrent treatment did not terminate here: upon my arrival at Birmingham, covered with wounds, and bleeding at every pore, they had me loaded with irons, thrown into an impenetrable dungeon, precluded equally from the cheerful light of heaven, and the soothing voice of friendship, where I must have fallen

fallen a victim to their sanguinary vengeance but for the interposition of a gentleman of the town.

“This is the treatment which I have received from persons who pique themselves upon their humanity, who have it continually in their mouths, who make use of it's sacred name to promote their execrable designs upon my life, and who immolate while they invoke it.

—These are the men who are now making a charge against me for the effects of intemperance and passion —It may by many be expected that I should here proceed to retort upon those who, by the most cruel calumnies in the news-papers, have endeavoured to excite the prepossession and prejudice of the public against me, but that is not my intention; as to the charge of my having assumed various titles, I despise it's folly, while I own it's malignity hurts me; I feel unhappy

happy that it is not now allowed me to controvert that charge, but I hope and trust that the report of my having committed a fraud at Newmarket, will not be suffered to be the foundation and support of a charge of an opposite nature, which without such presumption could not be sustained for a moment, and which I am not now at liberty to show my total innocence of.

“ These are the fair and ingenuous sentiments of a mind enfeebled by the miseries of confinement, and almost wholly depressed by reflecting upon it's melancholy situation; but having submitted my case to the discussion and consideration of an upright Judge, and an impartial Jury, and sensible that you will feel the difficulty of even making innocence appear under a charge so heavy as the present, I trust if you can assimilate your own feelings to those which I must

must have experienced under all these circumstances, you will be sensible, that the act which I have committed, could have originated only from an eagerness to protect from violence the charge I was then entrusted with, and to preserve my own life, and not from any meditated or malicious intention or design to injure or do any personal harm whatever to Mr. Wallis."

When he began the above speech, he seemed to be a little embarrassed, but he soon recovered himself, and spoke in a masterly manner, displaying occasionally great force, action, energy and eloquence.

The learned judge now summed up the evidence, with accuracy and precision; in the course of which, he stated the law to be, "That if an officer be killed in endeavouring to enter an
" apart-

“apartment to secure an offender, it
 “cannot be deemed murder, except the
 “officer shall have acquainted the offender by what authority, and for what
 “offence, he is about to secure him.”

The Jury, after consulting a few minutes, returned a Verdict — NOT
 GUILTY.

A very indecent applause now succeeded this verdict, and it was some minutes before order was restored in Court. He was then taken back to prison, to answer the separate charges of Mess. Wil-
 lerton and Green, of Bond-street, and Mr. Hammond, Banker, of Newmarket.

A few weeks after his acquittal, he was removed from Warwick to Bury St. Edmund's to take his trial on the charge of Mr. Hammond, the Newmarket banker.

Perhaps

Perhaps there is not a more striking instance of the beguiling influence of genteel demeanour and elegance of dress, than what occurred during Hobart's confinement at Warwick; for though every one knew he stood charged with three such heavy offences, that it was morally impossible he should be acquitted of them all, yet he found means to contract debts with different tradesmen to the amount of more than eighty pounds, while a prisoner, of which he never paid a shilling, and what is not a little singular, the gaoler himself was amongst the number of his principal creditors.

The following letter from Bury, (the first written in his real name) to the gaoler of Warwick, will exhibit a striking proof of the abilities and undisguised sentiments of the writer:

“ My

“ My dear Sir,

“ I have by this time conquered
 “ the effects of your too great hospital-
 “ lity.—My general health is good, and
 “ my mind as tranquil as you could sup-
 “ pose, while every moment is only the
 “ anticipation of future woe!—No par-
 “ ticular occurrence having happened
 “ since your departure that is worth im-
 “ parting, will necessarily render this
 “ letter dull and uninteresting; it will,
 “ however, convince you that I am not
 “ insensible of your friendship;—for,
 “ though I have not the cleanest hands
 “ of any man in the world, I never could
 “ be ungrateful: ingratitude can only be
 “ admitted into the bosoms of greater
 “ villains than myself.—My levees have
 “ not been so numerous as at Warwick,
 “ owing to our friend Scott, who will
 “ not admit any but the higher fashion
 “ of the county.—They have been ex-
 “ tremely profuse in their condolence,

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“ and

" and professions of friendship: whether
 " it is the result of that refined sensibility which illustrious characters invariably feel for each other under the pressure of adversity, or the mere small-talk of the moment, a few weeks will determine; as, according to a very nice calculation, that cutaneous reservoir, vulgarly called the breeches-pocket, and notorious for its unaffected sympathy with the animal spirits, will be *stiver-cramped*: I shall then indulge them with a touch of the sublimine!

" Your sudden departure excited just regret among those who tasted of your conviviality the preceding evening.—
 " I speak not of my own personal sufferings—that might be deemed the incense of adulation.—With my very sincere respects to your family,
 " and

"and wishes for your health and happiness,

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Your's truly,

"J. M. HOBART.

"Bury St. Edmund's,

"Friday noon, 31st August."

It was a difficult matter to get access to him in Bury gaol, as he was unwilling to be seen by any of his old acquaintance in the neighbourhood of the turf.— Here, however, he did not long remain, before an officer arrived with an *habeas* to take him to London, to answer the charge of Messrs. Willerton and Green.— On this information his fortitude forsook him; he appeared much agitated, and exclaimed, "Good God! what can this mean? Mr. Green would not

K 2

"swear

"swear to me in Birmingham." From this moment he seems to have been convinced that his fate was inevitable.

He conducted himself with great propriety in Newgate, previous to his trial at the Old Bailey, but was reduced to the last extremity, as will appear by the following letter, addressed to a gentleman of Birmingham, who had never seen him before he was taken into custody.

"CAN any thing be done for me
 "through the medium of your benevo-
 "lent exertions? Eight guineas will
 "enable me to employ counsel: I seri-
 "ously declare to you, my dear Sir, I
 "am so much afflicted at being reduced
 "to the painful necessity of troubling
 "my friends, that, at this moment, my
 "eyes are filled with tears; but I have
 "infinite consolation in reflecting that
 "so

"so small a sum, raised by the liberality
 "of several persons, cannot be a material
 "object to either, and I am equally
 "well assured, that those who may feel
 "themselves disposed to assist me at this
 "*critical juncture*, will, for their mite,
 "receive full remuneration in the
 "charming thought of it's having been
 "advanced with the benign view of
 "rescuing me from the fangs of my
 "insatiable enemies.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Your's, most cordially,

"HENRY GRIFFIN.

"Newgate, Friday morning."

The gentleman to whom the above
 letter was addressed, fearing that an
 attempt to solicit contributions for a man
 in Hobart's predicament, might subject
 him to censure, and at the same time
 feeling

feeling for the dreadful situation of a man of genteel accomplishments, with whom he had conversed, found he could no otherwise do justice to his own sensations, than by advancing the money himself, and accordingly sent him the sum requested, a few days before his trial.

The first Sessions after his removal to Newgate, he put off his trial on account of the absence of some of his witnesses; it came on, however, before Lord Loughborough, in the Sessions of December, 1792, which, for the satisfaction of the reader, is here subjoined at large, as taken by Mr. Sibly, the short-hand writer at the Old Bailey.

C H A P. XXI.

His trial at the Old Bailey.

THE prisoner being brought to the bar, before Lord Loughborough and a very respectable Jury, the indictments were read as follow.

“ Henry Griffin, otherwise George Hubbard, otherwise Lord Massey, stands indicted for feloniously forging a certain order, for the payment of money, purporting to bear date on the 15th of March, 1791, and to be the order of Charles, Earl of Tankerville, and directed to Thomas Coutts, Edward Antrobus, and John Antrobus, by the name and description of Thomas Coutts and Co. requiring them to pay to Lord Massey or bearer, the sum of

K 4

“ 149l.

" 1449l. with intent to defraud Robert
" Willerton and Charles Green, against
" the statute," &c.

The note was read as follows :

" No. 147.

" London, March 15, 1791.

" Messrs. Thomas Coutts and Co.
" pay Lord Massey, or bearer, 1449l.

" Tankerville."

He was indicted in a SECOND
COUNT for feloniously uttering it to
be true, knowing it to be forged, with
intent to defraud Robert Willerton and
Charles Green.

He was indicted in a THIRD and
FOURTH COUNTS for uttering it to
be true knowing it to be forged, with
intent

intent to defraud Charles, Earl of Tankerville.

He was indicted in a FIFTH COUNT for uttering it with intent to defraud Thomas Coutts, Edward Antrobus, and John Antrobus.

(The case was opened by Mr. Garrow.)

Charles Green sworn.

Q. You are in partnership with Mr. Willerton?—Yes.

Q. What is his christian name?—Robert.

Q. You carry on the goldsmith and jewellery business in Bond-Street?—Yes.

Q. On the 16th of March, 1791, did any person make application to you in the jewellery business?—Yes, on the 16th of March, 1791, the prisoner came

K 5 to

to my shop, and asked to see some necklaces, and ear-rings, we shewed him some which were commonly sold, he said he wanted diamond necklaces and ear-rings, and was recommended by Lord Salisbury. There being but few in the shop, I told him we would collect others of the work people, and shew them in a few hours; he agreed to my waiting upon him in two hours, which was at four o'clock.

2. Where was you to go?—To St. James's Place, he left a card and address (the card produced) Lord Massey on one side, and No. 36, St. James's Place, on the other. I went accordingly to the apartment at four o'clock. When I came to the house, a man servant shewed me up stairs, and I went into the room and found the person who had given me the card. I opened my goods and shewed him my book, he looked it over, and he asked the price of several articles,

articles, I told him; he asked me if I asked the lowest price, as he was going to pay ready cash for them. A person now came into the room and said Doctor Hunter was come. The Doctor came in, and the prisoner at the bar begged I would retire while he spoke to the Doctor. I went out of the room for about five minutes, and then was called in. Dr. Hunter was sitting at the table to write. The prisoner looked at the articles, and then made choice of a pair of diamond ear-rings, a necklace, a watch and chain; and desired me to put them in cases: I told him I would take them home and put them in cases, as I had no proper cases with me: he desired me to bring them again as soon as possible, as he was going out: I went back again as soon as ever I could get them packed up, and took the bill with me.

2. What time was you back?—This was before five, he looked over the bill, and I shewed him some other articles

K 6 at

at the same time, which the workmen had brought while I was absent, he looked over the bill—

2. What was the amount?—Seven hundred and sixty pounds; he then went to the drawer, and brought me this note, (produced) I looked it over, found it was regularly drawn on a check, told him I had not cash about me, but I would get it changed. I returned in about half an hour with a draft on my house for the difference of the bill, his servant told me he was gone out; I waited for about half an hour expecting he would return, but found he did not; I then told the servant I would call in the morning. I went to Mr. Coutts's first in the morning, and found the note was refused payment there.

2. I believe from the time of his delivering the note, you never saw him 'till he was in custody at Birmingham?—
Never.

2. When

Q. When was that?—On the 13th of last November twelvemonth, the year 1791, he was at that time in custody at Birmingham.

Q. Was the person you saw at Birmingham, the same person who gave you the said draft?—He was.

Q. Be so good to look at the prisoner, are you certain and clear he is the man?—I am; I have not the least doubt.

Q. I observe that before the magistrate at Birmingham, you said you believed he was the man?—I did; I wished to avoid prosecuting him. I thought there were such heavy charges against him there, that justice would be done without.

Mr. Knowles, Prisoner's Counsel. There were eight months from the time you saw the prisoner and received the bill from him, to the time you saw the prisoner at the bar! I should like you to recollect what you said when you got to Birmingham—

Birmingham? You said just now, that you verily believed he was the man, did not you say on the contrary, that you could not positively speak to his person? —I said that I believed him to be the person.

Q. I ask you whether you did not make use of this expression at any time in Birmingham, that you could not speak positively to his person?—No, sir, I said that I believed him to be the person.

Q. Did not you say Mr. Green, that the person who had got the goods of you was a thinner man than the prisoner, who was then examined?—At that time, I said, he was thinner than when I saw him before.

Q. I wish you would recollect yourself a little, did not you say that the person who had the goods of you, was a thinner man than the man who was examined before the magistrate?—I did not.

Q. You

Q. You never had the least sight of the person who obtained the goods of you for these eight months?—No, not for these eight months.

Mr. Garrow. Had you taken any pains to find him?—I had advertised a reward and distributed hand bills.

(The draft read by the Clerk of the Court.)

Prisoner. When I saw you at Birmingham, prior to the last time I saw you, you had two or three interviews with me before you made this charge?—I went with Mr. Wallis the constable to you.

Q. Had you not seen me prior to that time when you was asked whether it was the person who imposed on you or not, and did not you say that the man that had imposed on you was a much thinner man than I am?—No.

Q. Did you say I was the man?—I said I believed you was the man.

Q. Mr. Green, as a man of honour, as a tradesman of respectability, to which

no

no doubt you aspire; did you, or did you not say, that you verily believed I was not the man?—I did not.

Prisoner. My Lord, I beg your Lordship's pardon for intruding upon the court; but they are facts that I can bring an indisputable witness to prove, a person not unknown to my Lord Loughborough.

Court. The time to call your witnesses is in your defence.

Prisoner. I shall take the liberty of calling the witness to prove what I have just stated.

—— *Horten sworn.*

Q. I believe, madam, in March, 1791, you lived in St. James's Place?—I did, Lord Massey took my lodgings on the 15th of March, but did not come till the 16th.

Q. Did

Q. Did he take them for a certain time?—He did not.

Q. When did he leave them?—He left them on the 16th, he was there but a few hours.

Q. What time did he come on the 16th?—About twelve o'clock.

Q. Do you recollect any person coming to him while he was at your house?—I recollect Mr. Green coming.

Q. Any body else?—Yes, Mr. John Hunter.

Q. Was Lord Massey attended by any servant?—He was attended by a French servant.

Q. Will you look round and see if you can discover that person?—I think I do, I think the prisoner at the bar is that person.

Q. Did you know he was going to leave your lodgings so suddenly?—I did not.

Court. Was he in your house on the night of the 15th?—He took them on the

the 15th, but he never slept there; he came about twelve o'clock on the 16th, and stayed till between four and five, and then he walked out as indifferently as you or I, or any person else would do.

Mr. Garrow. Did he leave any thing?

—Nothing but two trunks, which on Mr. Green's returning from Bow-street, were opened, and contained nothing but brickbats, tiles, and haybands.

Mr. Knowles. There was nothing particular in this person's mode of leaving your house, he walked out very leisurely? —He did.

2. This is at a very great length of time you are now speaking of, a year or more?—It is.

2. Do you inhabit the whole of the house yourself?—I let the first floor.

2. You have a variety of lodgers of course?—I have.

Fury

Fury. Pray did the last witness say, "I think he is the man?"—"That was the expression, "I think he is the man."

Mary Monro-sworn.

Q. You was servant to Mrs. Horten?
—I was.

Q. Do you recollect any person in March, 1791, lodging there, passing for Lord Massey?—Yes, that person at the bar.

Q. Are you sure?—I am confident.

Q. Had you any occasion to attend him while he was there?—Yes, he rung the bell while his own servant was out of the way; I went in, and he desired me to call a coach, which I did.

Q. At what time was this?—Soon after he came, and he desired me to look carefully about the room, for he had dropped a check; I went down to my mistress, and told her what my Lord had lost;

lost; I looked about the room, but could not find any thing. When he came to the coach he desired the coachman to drive him to the Duke of Argyle's: his Lordship was absent about two hours, and returned as near as I can recollect.

2. Do you recollect any person coming to him after he returned?—Dr. Hunter came, but I did not see him; I saw Mr. Green.

2. Was the prisoner at the bar the person to whom Mr. Green came?—Yes; there was no other person there.

2. How soon after Mr. Green came did the prisoner at the bar go out?—He went out the second time about six o'clock in the evening; and when he went out, he told me not to put any sheets on the bed, for he found his own linen.

2. But he did not return?—He did not.

2. Did he leave any person in his room?—He left his man servant all night, expecting my Lord to come home.

Mr.

Mr. Knowles. Do you live with this lady still?—I do.

Q. She has had a number of lodgers since that time?—Yes.

Q. This person who took your mistresses lodgings was only there a few hours. He had a man servant with him, of course the chief attention that would be paid to his commands, would be by his own servant?—Yes, but he was out.

Q. All that you know is, that this person went out, and that you went and called a coach?—Yes.

Joseph Lecree sworn.

Q. You are a French servant, I understand?—Yes, my Lord.

Q. With whom did you live in the month of March, 1791?—With Lord Massey.

Q. Was that at the house of Mrs. Horten, in St. James's Place?—It was.

Q. How

2. How long was you in his service?
—I was hired the 16th of March, between twelve and one o'clock.

2. Was you hired at Ibberson's Coffee-house, Vere-Street?—I was.

2. Did your master come there to hire you?—No, I had advertised the day before, being out of place, and a card was left for me to go to Ibberson's Coffee-house, where I was directed to my Lord. The first time I went at twelve, my Lord was not come in, but calling again about half after twelve, he was there reading a news-paper, and he hired me as a servant.

2. For what length of time?—He did not mention, but I was to come immediately into his service, otherwise it would not do; accordingly, being out of place, I did not refuse it. He sent me to Mrs. Horten, to see if his lodgings were ready. The lodgings being ready I came back to let my Lord know, and he desired me to wait 'till some of his baggage

gage came from my Lord such a one, whom I cannot exactly say; the baggage arrived, it consisted of a large trunk, and a portmanteau; he sent me immediately to Mrs. Horten's in a coach, with this trunk and portmanteau.

2. How soon did he come there himself?—In a very short time, about a quarter of an hour afterwards.

2. What was you employed in?—I began to undo the trunk 'till my lord came home; then he sent me to buy some oranges, pens, and ink, and so on; and then I was sent to Mr. John Hunter's, with my Lord's card; that Mr. John Hunter was to call upon him at three o'clock. He was not at home the first time, and then I was sent again, and I appointed him to come. When I came home the first or second time, I cannot exactly say, the maid servant told me my Lord was gone out, to pay a visit to the Duke of Argyle, and he would be back
imme-

immediately. After he came home there was a porter brought a letter directed to Lord Massey, left it and went away. Mr. Green came afterwards, I shewed him up to my Lord: I don't know what passed while Mr. Green was there.

Q. Which came first, Mr. Hunter or Mr. Green?—I believe Mr. Hunter was in the room before Mr. Green, and Mr. Green waited 'till Mr. Hunter went away.

Q. After Mr. Green had been with him, how long did my Lord stay at home?
—Five or ten minutes.

Q. Did he leave any message with you when he went out?—He did; he desired me not to go out, as he expected somebody to call for him.

Q. Did he tell you whether he should return to sleep that night?—He said he should come home to dress, but he never returned again.

Q. Look round and see if you can discover the person you have described? .

—That

—That person at the bar is the very resemblance of the man that was called my Lord Massey, but he is not so fat nor so red as he was.

Q. Do you mean to speak with doubt or certainty of him?—I never saw him from that time 'till a fortnight ago, I then took him to be the person.

Q. On the whole, have you any doubt that he is the person that hired you?—It is the same picture of him, only what I mentioned before.

Mr. Knowles. You are a French servant, that wait upon foreigners a good deal when they come to town, frequently changing your service?—No, Sir.

Q. How many services have you lived in since you was with my Lord Massey?—One.

Q. Do you recollect going into Newgate?—Yes.

Q. Was not there a man of the name of Bonus, that was tried here last Sessions, which you expressed as your opinion was
Vol. II. L the

the man that you served?—I did not see any body in prison that I served else.

Q. Did not you see a person in the prison of the name of Bonus, that you thought was the person you served?—I saw a good many people there.

Q. Did not you express an opinion that some other person whom you saw there was the person you had served?—No.

Q. Do you know a man of the name of Kendall?—No.

Q. Have you been in this court before?—No.

Q. Was you shewn any more apartments than one in Newgate?—Only one.

Q. Do you recollect seeing a tall genteel looking man there?—I saw several there.

Q. Now I ask you to recollect whether you did not intimate to some person, that you thought another man you saw there, was the person you served as Lord Massey?—I fixed my mind and was confident, this person is the person I served,

served, as Lord Massey; I was in prison looked at all of them, and I saw that same man, and I don't know that it is any other.

Q. You deny then that you ever expressed your opinion that some other person in prison was my Lord Massey?—I deny it.

— *Charlton sworn.*

Q. I believe you are cashier to the house of Messrs. Coutts and Co?—I am.

Q. Was that draft presented to you by Mr. Green?—It was; I refused to pay it.

Q. Did my Lord Tankerville use your house?—He did not.

Mr. Knowles. Then you refused paying the draft, because my Lord Tankerville did not keep cash there?—Yes.

James Shelton sworn.

Q. I believe you have been solicitor to my Lord Tankerville for some years?—I have.

Q. Have

2. Have you seen his lordship write frequently?—Yes, frequently, and have received many letters from him.

2. Be so good to look at the signature of Tankerville to the draft you have in your hand?—I believe it is not his hand writing.

2. Would you on that signature have made any payment, or done any thing as by his lordship's orders?—Certainly I should not.

— *Claret sworn.*

2. Have you had any opportunity of being acquainted with my lord's manner of writing?—Yes, I have seen him frequently write, I believe that not to be my lord's writing, I would have made no payment under that signature.

William Beezley sworn.

2. Have you had any opportunity of seeing my Lord Tankerville write?— I have

have more than twenty years, that is not at all like his hand writing, I would not have made any payment, or done any business for my Lord Tankerville, on that hand writing.

Mr. Garrow to Charlton. Be so good to tell us the firm of Mr. Coutts and Co's. banking house?—Thomas Coutts, Edward Antrobus, and Thomas Antrobus.

Mr. Knowles. Are there no other partners?—No.

Mr. Garrow to Shelton. Be so good to tell us Lord Tankerville's christian name?—Charles.

The prisoner being now informed that the Court was ready to hear his defence, very gracefully made his obedience, and said,

“My Lord, your lordship has done me the honour to allow me to reply in answer to the charge exhibited against me by Mr. Garrow; it certainly is not my wish to be distinguished as a public speaker,

ker, and several powerful reasons present themselves why I should be silent on this occasion; but in the present case, I feel myself irresistibly impelled to arrest the attention of the court, while I submit a few remarks to the candour, good sense, and liberality of you, my Lord, and the Gentlemen of the Jury. Gentlemen, I feel peculiarly unfortunate in being obliged to add to the load of misery I now sustain, the being placed at the bar, to answer this charge. Circumstanced as I now am, the strongest prejudice of public opinion being against me, oppressed by calumny in every newspaper, and almost convicted by the popular cry, before I have even heard the charge imputed to me, or had it in my power to say a syllable in my defence—under such prejudices, and in such a situation, I can only rely on the judgment, the honour, and the integrity of the learned Judge, before whom I am tried: and implore a fair, candid, and impartial hearing of
the

the Jury, who are to determine the matter.

" Gentlemen, I can only be anticipating the observations that will be made much more favourable for me by the learned Judge, when I earnestly request of you, Gentlemen of the Jury, to try this cause on the evidence adduced before you, and totally to lay out of your consideration every thing you have heard before you came into this court. Your minds being only impressed by the effect of the evidence; I feel a most perfect confidence in receiving a verdict declaring my innocence.

" I will now take the liberty of imparting to my Lord and the Gentlemen of the Jury, such observations as have occurred to me on the evidence which has been given against me.

" Mr. Green, gentlemen, I am sorry to say, has exceedingly departed from the truth in a most gross and flagrant manner; gentlemen, my assertion is

this,

this, and I well know that bare assertions can have but little weight, but, gentlemen, I have it in my power to call a gentleman of the first respectability, a man who wants only to be known, to be universally admired; I shall not anticipate his evidence more than I have already done, he will tell you that Mr. Green, when he saw me at Birmingham, said, the question being put to him, that the person who imposed on him was a much thinner man than myself, he has now told you he did not say so; that he said I was exactly the man, and that he was very certain of it. Gentlemen, what can we think of a man thus elastic in his mind, one that will swear one thing one day, but a different thing another. Heaven forbid, gentlemen, that I should be desirous of depreciating the character of any man, even the greatest enemy I have in existence; I assure you I would not; but when such flagrant evidence, thus contradictory in itself, is brought against me,

me, with a view to deprive me of my life, I think it but fair I should expose it.

“ The next witness that is called is the lady that keeps the house, where the impostor lodged: she has acted in such a manner that does her infinite honour; she does not say that I am the person, she says she thinks I am the same person, but she does not attempt to affirm that I am the person who imposed upon her. Gentlemen, I need not tell you what a wonderful coincidence in manner, size, appearance and voice, there may be between two persons without the smallest connexion, as to the same identical person. We know a man of the brightest genius is likely to err as to identity, and more particularly where the view has been transient, as appears in the present instance. The mistress of the house swears that I left the house at five o'clock, the maid servant swears it was at six. Gentlemen, where women will take upon themselves to swear to the identity of a

L 5.
person,

person, in a forcible manner, it is very extraordinary they should not as well recollect, to as great a certainty, the hour; it appears they do not, for the mistress of the house says I went away about five, and the maid servant says I went away about six; therefore her evidence, as to the identity of person, cannot be depended on.

“ The next witness called is Lecree, who appears to have been a servant with the assumed Lord Massey: he has told you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that I resemble him, that there is a wonderful likeness; but surely, gentlemen, that is not evidence, that ought not to add any weight in the scale of this cause; surely nothing but the most clear and strong evidence should govern the determination of a Jury; nothing of this sort, as adduced by this witness, should be suffered to make any impression; more particularly when life is at stake.

“ Gen-

“Gentlemen of the Jury, there is a circumstance occurs to my mind, which I think very proper for your consideration. Mr. Hunter's name has been mentioned, his name has been used in this cause, his evidence no doubt would be of material weight. I should be glad to know why he has not been brought forward; a person of his integrity, respectability and veracity, would have had very great weight with the Judge, and you, Gentlemen of the Jury.

“I will beg leave to read to you, gentlemen, two letters; they were received by me yesterday, from a man that was my servant, they will prove, beyond the possibility of a doubt, the intention of Mr. Green, and will manifest he has left no stone unturned to deprive me of my life; I will beg leave to call a witness, who will prove having received this letter from Steven Duport; extracts of which are as follow:

L 6

“Sir,

"Sir, I have sent you word that Mr. Green (the prosecutor in this cause) is determined to make me appear. It will be a great hurt to you; therefore you will see by my conduct, that I take your interest, and I send this to let you know he has been at my house yesterday, and desired me not to be out of the way on Wednesday; he says he will give leave to go into the country, if it was for a month, but you know my disposition. If I had money I had not have wrote, therefore I shall go out of the way:

"Stephen Dupont."

"An abstract of the second letter is as follows:

"Sir, the very moment I sent off your other letter, Mr. Willerton and Mr. Green came to me and asked me several questions, the same as before; I have given the same answers, that I would be ready at any time; they asked me—Mr. Green asked me if I meant

" meant to stay always in livery ; I said
" no : he said if I wanted money or
" clothes he would lend me some." The
meaning of it, gentlemen, you may see
very plain.

" Gentlemen, under all these circumstances, it would be an insult to your understanding to suppose you capable of giving a verdict contrary to your best wishes ; I solemnly declare to his Lordship, and you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that I am not guilty of the charge.

" Gentlemen of the Jury, I have been in custody fourteen months, since which time eight sessions have elapsed : why this charge has not been brought forward before this period, I cannot say. Gentlemen, from the vicissitudes I have undergone, it is impossible for any person, possessed of sympathy, not to feel something, and more especially on the present occasion, where the dictates of keen sensibility take place, without the smallest mitigation.

" Gen-

"Gentlemen, I need not tell you I have long been the mark of vengeance. I have been reviled to the utmost, but I have the infinite satisfaction in my own breast, that they are ill grounded; for could I be truly charged with any dishonourable, mean, or unmanly undertaking, my feelings would indeed be very different from those I now experience; my mind, in that case, would sting me more than the bitterest reproof of the sincerest friends. Thus supported by my conscience, I wait for your verdict without inquietude, as knowing, that to men of your liberality of sentiment, I am not the object of those prejudices which have operated so fatally against many men in a similar situation; and doubt not, but that you will form your result from a feeling heart, dictated by an enlightened understanding."

John Brooke sworn.

I live at Birmingham, I am in the
profession of the law. 2. Was

Q. Was you present at any time that Mr. Green saw the prisoner at the bar?
—Yes.

Q. Did you hear him give any account as to the knowledge of his person, and will you be so kind as to tell us the expression he made use of on that occasion?
—I was with him when he was before Mr. Carles, at Birmingham; Mr. Green got up, walked about the room, and he was asked whether he was certain he was the person: he did not take on himself to say. Mr. Carles wished me to be present, as a professional man; in consequence of this, I asked Mr. Green if he was certain that Mr. Griffin was the person that had committed the robbery; he said he could not speak with certainty to the person, but his young man could. Mr. Griffin, after some conversation, got up, walked up to Mr. Green, and beseeched him to take every opportunity of satisfying himself, whether he was the person or not. —I then told Mr. Green, that

that he ought to be decided in his evidence against him, as the charge was of such a serious nature as to affect his life; he said he believed him to be the person; on which Mr. Carless said it was sufficient to commit the gentleman on that charge.

Mr. Garrow. I am sorry you have had the trouble to come to-day, to take on yourself to prove what Mr. Green has said before. Perhaps this examination is your hand writing?—It is not; it is Mr. Carless's, I believe; this examination was brought ready prepared.

Q. Did you see Mr. Green sworn to it?—I did; I asked Mr. Green whether he was certain as to the day; Mr. Griffin said it was no consequence, if he said the month of March, for he was all that month on the continent.

Court. Was your conversation with Mr. Green, before or after his examination?—Previous, or rather during his examination.

Q. Was it before he signed his examination?—I believe it was. *Mr.*

Mr. Garrow. As you attended to assist Mr. Green, you of course saw that every thing was put down correct?—I did not exactly see what was put down, I was there in some respect by desire of Mr. Griffin.

Jury. Did the last witness say of Mr. Green, that he could not swear positively to the person, but his servant could.

Mr. Garrow to Mr. Green. This gentleman has said that you said you had a person who could better recognize the prisoner than yourself.—That is so, that person is in court.

Jury. We wish him to be called.

William Mears sworn.

Q. Was you in the service of Mess. Green and Willerton, in the month of March 1791?—Yes.

Q. Do you recollect the prisoner as the person who came to your master's shop?—I cannot swear positively to that person, but I think the prisoner resembles him.

Q. Will

Q. Will you be so good as to point out any alteration between the prisoner at the bar, and the person who assumed the name of Lord Massey?—He appeared I think at that time to be rather fuller in the face.

Q. On the whole are you able to form a belief that the prisoner is the same person or not?—I cannot take on me to say; I cannot say any thing more than I have.

Q. Do you believe he is or is not?—I rather believe he is.

Mr. Garrow. Gentlemen of the Jury, I state to you gentlemen, that this person was not in my brief, or otherwise I would have called him.

Prisoner. It is rather extraordinary, Mr. Garrow, you should not have called him.

Mr. Garrow. Sir, I have done you the justice and liberality to state that he is not in my brief.

Court. How long had you an opportunity of seeing the person March, 1791?—I only saw him in the shop.

Lord

Lord Loughborough now briefly recapitulated the evidence without a single comment, and the Jury after a short deliberation returned their verdict **GUILTY**. On hearing the dreadful term pronounced, his countenance changed, and he appeared greatly agitated. He now made his obedience to the Court, and was instantly conducted to the dark cells in which those are locked up who are doomed to suffer.

Although convicts condemned to die, are by the regulations of Newgate not allowed the benefit of the light of heaven, but during two hours in a day, yet (as Hobart observes in a following letter) so readily do men reconcile themselves to the severest pangs of adversity, that, he, after a very short time, seemed to enjoy this interval with much satisfaction, and one day entered into conversation with a gentleman who called to see him with as much vivacity, as if he had forgot his approaching fate. But
hope,

hope, perhaps, whose influence is hardly to be circumscribed within the bounds of possibility, had in some degree beguiled him; for though he knew that since the fate of Dr. Dodd, none, convicted of forgery, had been pardoned, yet he made application by letter to the Secretary of State. That he expected his life would be saved, is evident indeed, by the despair which overwhelmed him when the report was made, and he found he was ordered for execution.

After he was convinced that his fate was inevitable, he wrote letters from Newgate to different gentlemen, but the following, shewing the mixture of reason and distraction which occupied his faculties just before the awful moment of death, is the only one which could be any wise interesting to the reader.

“THE die is cast—my fate decided :
 “—A world of recurrences rack my per-
 “turbed mind ! yet I am not insensible
 “of

"of your benevolent, your generous
"assistance—your calming admonitions.

"—My present lot is worse than a
"thousand deaths!—my own reflections;
"—a solitary cell—excluded from every
"ray of hope, or the smallest glimpse
"of the light of Heaven!

"Through the various vicissitudes of
"life, I have hitherto found it to be in
"the constitution of sublunary things,
"that the endurance of evils is the com-
"mon lot of mortality, and in the be-
"nignant order of Providence, that the
"worst evils should be endurable, by
"happening so progressively, that our
"natures are gradually tempered to the
"infelicity of their condition—but, alas!
"I am now o'erwhelm'd with despair.

"Adieu for ever!

"J. M. HOBART.

"Newgate, 8th Feb. 1793."

The day previous to his execution he
stabbed himself in two different places
with

with a short pen-knife, and is also believed to have taken poison, neither of which proved effectual.

On the morning of the 13th of Feb. 1793, the day of execution, he had perfectly recovered his tranquillity, and seemed to feel little inconvenience from the attempts he had made on his life; for, on being asked whether he would have a cup of tea or coffee, he ordered both, and took a hearty breakfast, with much apparent indifference. The hair-dresser then appeared, and prepared to dress him, but Hobart desired to be shaved first: on being told that he could not perform that operation, as his razors had been taken from him before he was permitted to enter, "then (said Hobart) "I will not be dressed." He now put on a surtout, over a fashionable suit of mourning, and about seven o'clock in the morning, accompanied by seven other malefactors, approached the scene of death with much composure; nor did that

that accommodating address, which distinguished him through life, forsake him even in the hands of the executioner, whom he assisted in loosening his shirt-collar and adjusting the rope.

A few seconds before the platform dropped, he fixed his regard on a gentleman who accompanied the sheriff, as if he wished to say something. This person approached him, and they conversed a few moments, which seemed to afford him much comfort. The platform dropped at nine o'clock, and put a final period to the career of this extraordinary man.

It is an undeniable fact, that frequently, in the dispensation of her gifts, Nature, as though actuated by a species of caprice, blends in the same individual, the most opposite, and sometimes, the most ridiculous extremes. — Are not splendid abilities despised daily, for walking abroad in the disgraceful livery of egotism? Have not the

the brightest sparks of philosophy darted forth through the darkest clouds of enthusiasm?—The exceptionable part too is frequently so incorporated with the nature of the man, that it cannot be extirpated but at the expence of his life.

Voltaire, or some other author, in noticing a being of this description, says, “this man was a graceful figure, master of the most engaging address, and possessed sentiments truly exalted;” but somehow or other he could never be prevailed upon to entertain any just notions of the distinction of property.”

This, perhaps, in some degree, may be applied to Hobart; however, to conclude, it may be observed, he possessed many excellent qualities, both natural and acquired; but they were unfortunately combined with others so inimical to society, that he fell a dreadful example to dissipation and licentiousness, and a necessary sacrifice to the offended law.

